

2014 WISCONSIN BIG GAME HARVEST SUMMARY



Photo by Dean Tvedt

1953, Portage County—registration stations have played an important role in deer management since their inception in the 1950s. Among other valuable functions, registration stations have traditionally assisted in collecting biological data that help fine-tune deer population estimates and harvest quotas. Here, a wildlife biologist ages a mature buck by examining its teeth. Over 60 years later, as deer registration enters the electronic age, the deer season traditions associated with local establishments still remain timeless.

DEER | BEAR | WOLF | TURKEY

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
MAY 2015**



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Dear Wisconsin Big Game Enthusiast:

The photo on the cover of this report, depicting a typical 1950s registration station experience, is emblematic of the many years of service that registration stations have provided to hunters across the state. This report provides detailed harvest information for our state's four huntable big game species – white-tailed deer, black bear, wolf, and wild turkey – and will be of considerable interest to the legion of hunters who take advantage of these outstanding recreational opportunities.

The framework for the 2014 gun deer season was similar to that in 2013. There were several new rule changes in 2014 which included dividing the state into four deer management zones and establishing deer management unit boundaries at the county level. Additional changes influenced antlerless tag allocations which for the first time required specifying the zone, county and land type (private vs. public). Gun deer hunters enjoyed an October youth hunt, the traditional November 9-day gun season, December muzzleloader, and various December antlerless only hunts in the farmland and central forest zones. The archery season ran from Sept. 13, 2014 – Jan. 4, 2015. The crossbow season, open to all hunters for the first time, ran concurrently with the archery season. Season structure varied among management zones with no antlerless-only opportunities in the Northern and Central Forests. The overall deer harvest was down significantly in 2014 compared to 2013, with 304,289 deer registered by archery (54,810), crossbow (26,891) and firearm (222,558) hunters. Buck harvest was down for individual equipment types, although the combined bow/crossbow buck kill set a new record. Participation in the youth deer hunt continues to be high, providing a wonderful means of exposing a new generation of hunters to the outdoor world.

The 2014 Wisconsin bear harvest increased by 5% from 2013 levels, with 4,184 bears being harvested by 10,460 hunters who successfully drew a kill tag, but actual harvest was very close to the established harvest goal of 4,700 bears with the harvest being slightly lower than anticipated in Bear Management Zone C. A record 109,088 people applied for either a preference point or kill tag for the 2015 bear season. Although the state black bear population continues to spread southward with bear harvested in Monroe, Juneau, and Waushara Counties, the highest bear kill occurred in the Northern Region (3,282). More bears were harvested over bait alone (3,395) than were shot over dogs (995). A total of 10,690 permits will be available for the 2015 season, with a harvest goal of 4,750 bears.

Cold, persistent snow and a late green-up in spring likely impacted turkey survival and production in 2012-2013. More favorable conditions during 2013-2014 likely contributed to the increased harvest during the 2014 spring turkey hunt when 41,815 turkeys were harvested. Hunter success rates during the spring season averaged 20%, with 210,496 permits issued. 62,708 permits were issued for the fall 2014 turkey hunting, with hunters registering 4,228 turkeys. This is a decrease from the 4,631 registered in the fall of 2013. Success rates were also down, with 6.7% of permit holders killing a bird, compared to 7.1% in 2013. The decrease in both harvest and success rates during the fall turkey season is likely due to permits being sold to a segment of hunters who only hunt turkeys opportunistically while pursuing other game. Turkey hunting in Wisconsin has become a well-established tradition following the reintroduction of turkeys in the late 1970s, providing exceptional recreational opportunities for our state's hunters.

The 2014 wolf harvest (154) declined from the 2013 wolf harvest (257) but remained above the 2012 wolf harvest (117), Wisconsin's first regulated wolf hunt. In response to a court order, wolves were returned to the federal endangered species list in December 2014. Under endangered status, wolf hunting and trapping is not allowed. Please check for the DNR website for updated information on listing status and future hunting and trapping seasons.

Thank you for your interest in Wisconsin's big game species. Enjoy your time in the field and have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience in 2015.

Bob Nack, chief, Mammal Ecology Section

2015 DEER HUNTING SEASON DATES

Bow & Crossbow:	Sept. 12 – Jan. 3, 2016
Bow & Crossbow (metro):	Sept. 12 – Jan. 31, 2016
Youth Gun Hunt:	Oct. 10 - 11
Disabled Hunt:	Oct. 3 - 11
9-day Gun Hunt:	Nov. 21 - 29
9-day Gun Hunt (metro):	Nov. 21 – Dec. 9
Muzzleloader:	Nov. 30 – Dec. 9
December Antlerless-only:	Dec. 10 - 13

2015 BEAR HUNTING SEASON DATES

Zone C:	
<i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Sept. 9 – Oct. 13
Zones A, B and D:	
<i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Oct. 7 - 13
<i>With aid of dogs, bait or other legal methods</i>	Sept. 16 – Oct. 6
<i>With aid of dogs only</i>	Sept. 9 - 15

2015 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON DATES:

Youth Turkey Hunt:	April 11 & 12	Fall Season:	Statewide = Sept. 12 – Nov. 19
Spring Season:	A = April 15 – 21		Zones 1 – 5 = Nov. 30 – Dec. 31
	B = April 22 – 28		
	C = April 29 – May 5		
	D = May 6 – 12		
	E = May 13 – 19		
	F = May 20 - 26		

The 2014 Big Game Harvest Summary

Volume 25 – Issue 1

Deer, Bear, Wolf and Turkey

Compiled by Brian Dhuey

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bureau of Science Services

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The 2014 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Summary

By Brian Dhuey and Kevin Wallenfang

2014 Season Highlights

Archery Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	16,641	15,885	352	32,878
Central Forest	1,426	595	28	2,049
Northern Forest	4,520	612	28	5,160
Southern Farmland	7,846	6,597	280	14,723
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	30,433	23,689	688	54,810

Crossbow Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	8,431	7,982	123	16,536
Central Forest	813	408	12	1,233
Northern Forest	3,952	467	27	4,446
Southern Farmland	2,572	2,031	73	4,676
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	15,768	10,888	235	26,891

Gun Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total ^a
Central Farmland	53,316	83,660	703	137,679
Central Forest	4,465	3,387	29	7,881
Northern Forest	19,817	6,691	121	26,629
Southern Farmland	19,598	30,335	427	50,360
Unknown	0	39	0	39
Total	97,196	124,112	1,280	222,588

^a Includes damage deer

Tribal Totals

Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
432	702	0	1,125

Abstract

This report summarizes the results of the 2014 Wisconsin archery, crossbow, youth, 9-day gun, muzzleloader, December antlerless only and holiday deer seasons. All statistics are from kill registration data. Since 1953, the Department of Natural Resources has required that Wisconsin hunters register all deer harvested. Permit information was provided by the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing and the Bureau of Information Management of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Dan Storm of the Bureau of Science Services summarized data collected from deer aging stations and Brenda Von Rueden of the Bureau of Law Enforcement provided the hunting accident report. The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) provided all Chippewa deer harvest data. This report is possible due to Pittman-Robertson funds.

Season Structure

Following recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report, major changes were made to the deer management system in Wisconsin in 2014. The state is now divided into four deer management zones (DMZ) from north to south: Northern Forest, Central Forest, Central Farmland and Southern Farmland (Figure 1). Deer management units in these new management zones are based on county boundaries inside the zone. Most counties are now their own management unit with a few exceptions for areas where DMZs cross county boundaries, or where tribal reservation boundaries were used to develop their own units. Metro areas within these new unit boundaries are now subunits of the larger county management unit. These subunits were subject to longer seasons and may have been eligible for additional antlerless permits.

A continuous archery and crossbow season ran from September through early January. Gun seasons included a statewide youth gun deer season in October, a traditional 9-day gun deer season in November, a 10-day statewide muzzleloader season and an antlerless only 4-day hunt in mid-December in the Central Forest and Central Farmland DMZs. An antlerless-only holiday hunt was in place in the Southern Farmland DMZ and ran from 24 December – 1 January. No October antlerless only gun deer season occurred in Wisconsin in 2014.

Permits

All hunters were allowed to harvest one buck statewide per weapon authority purchased. Archers and crossbow hunters that purchased an upgrade authority to use either weapon were only allowed to harvest one buck with either weapon per season.

A free antlerless permit was issued with each license purchased. These permits allowed the harvest of antlerless deer in the farmland DMZs. Additional antlerless permits could be purchased for both the farmland and forested DMZs. These permits were sold over the counter on a first come-first served basis at a cost of \$12 each. The purchaser had to designate the unit and land type (private or public) for which they were purchasing the permit. Permits available were limited in many zones, units, and land types, with many units in the Northern Forest DMZ and some in the Central Forest DMZ having no antlerless permits available (Tables 1&2). Deer hunters who were hunting under a youth license were issued an additional antlerless tag with each license purchased that allow the harvest of an antlerless deer statewide, even if the unit had no antlerless tags available to the general public.

Hunters in the Southern Farmland DMZ who harvested an antlerless deer were eligible for a bonus buck. Upon registering an antlerless deer or bringing in an antlerless deer with a buck to be registered, hunters were given a bonus buck authority which allowed the taking of additional antlered deer with any weapon during any season in which bucks were legal.

Archery/Crossbow Season

There were several changes to the deer season framework affecting early season hunting. Changes to the season structure for archers allow them to have a continuous season held from 13 September - 4 January, with no season closures as had been done in the past. Also for the first time crossbows were legal for all ages of hunters. Previously, only hunters who could document a disability or were 65 years old or older were eligible to use a crossbow. The crossbow season ran concurrent to the archery season with the same season dates and bagging rules as archery. Hunters were allowed to use both vertical bows and crossbows during the season if they purchased an "upgrade" license for \$3. They were still limited to one buck in areas of the state that did not have a bonus buck rule. Archery and crossbow season remained open during all concurrent firearm hunts. All hunters are required to wear blaze orange clothing during any open firearm deer season.

In most management units, archery and crossbow hunters were allowed to harvest one antlered and one antlerless deer during the season. As in recent years, archers and crossbow hunters were restricted to "Bucks Only" in units that want to increase the number of deer in the unit and restricted gun hunters to bucks only as well. Archers and crossbow hunters were allowed to harvest additional antlerless deer using free Farmland Zone antlerless deer permit(s), or purchased additional antlerless deer permits in units that allowed the taking of extra antlerless deer.

Six metropolitan subunits were designated in the state that allowed archery and crossbow hunters additional opportunity to kill deer by keeping the season open until 31 January. Permits were made available for sale over the counter prior to the opening of the season. Some of these metro subunits had antlerless permits available, even though the unit overall may have been a "Buck Only" unit. Archers and crossbow hunters could purchase additional antlerless permits throughout the season or until all were sold.

Wisconsin archers killed 54,810 deer in 2014. Crossbow hunters killed 26,891 deer. The combined harvest was 81,701; this is down from the combined harvest of 87,628 killed in 2013. Hunting conditions for the season were fair with average to slightly above average temperatures during the season in September and October and more normal temperatures during the second half in November and December. Weather events during the rut were fairly limited and short in duration and should not have affected the hunters during most of the rut in Wisconsin, leading to many successful hunts during this period. Above-average temperatures and light snowfalls may have been conducive to hunters hunting late in the season. A summary of the archer and crossbow deer harvest by deer management unit is contained in Figures 8-11 and Tables 19-22.

Firearm Season

October

A statewide youth deer hunt was held on the 11th-12th of October. All persons from 10-15 years of age were eligible to hunt. Mentored Hunting was introduced to the state in 2009, which allowed anyone age 10 or older to hunt without a Hunter's Ed card as long as they hunted with

an 18-year-old or older mentor. All youth who were mentored or possessed a Hunter's Ed card and a Gun Deer License were eligible to hunt. The bag limit was one buck and additional antlerless deer with the appropriate carcass tag(s). All youth deer license holders were issued a free antlerless tag, which was valid statewide, even in "Buck Only" units. A total of 8,671 deer were killed by youth during these two days (Table 7 and Figure 4). A gun hunt for disabled hunters was held on sponsor landowners' properties, a deer of either sex was legal from 4-12 October.

November

Wisconsin held the 2014 regular 9-day firearm deer season during 22-30 November. Rifles were no longer prohibited in most of the state, but local governments could still restrict their discharge in their jurisdictions. Firearm license holders were issued one antlered deer tag valid statewide and one antlerless deer tag that was valid on any landownership type in any unit in both the Central and Southern Farmland DMZ's. Many units in all DMZs offered additional antlerless tags that were specific to landownership (private/public) and were sold for \$12 on a first-come-first-served basis.

Most of the state had snow cover for opening morning of the gun hunt. Temperatures were in the high 20s and low 30s in the morning. Temperatures rose above freezing during opening morning causing many areas to fog up, and have poor visibility. Much of the snow melted during the day causing dripping and the woods to be very wet. Most snow was lost in the south and greatly decreased in the north as the day wore on. Sunday morning's weather was much the same, with even warmer temperatures into the 40s, and much of the areas that still had snow saw morning fog. The southern parts of the state had rain to heavy rain by mid-morning that stayed most of the day, the north did not see as much rain, but did have mist and occasional showers. Snow fell again across much of the state on Monday and temperatures fell to below freezing. Temperatures stayed below average during the early part of the week, so the snow stayed, but many areas had greatly reduced visibility due to snow hanging in the trees. Friday saw the temperatures return to normal with a few snow flurries. The second weekend of the season was sunny with more seasonal temperatures in the south and central portions of the state. Generally, temperatures were average to below average with most precipitation occurring during the first Sunday and Monday of the 9-day hunting season. Snow early in the week hung in the trees and reduced hunter visibility in a large portion of the state during most of the week. This hanging snow along with the late season opener and reduced rut activity may have made "finding" deer more difficult. The statewide corn harvest was behind average in most of the state with the east central and northeastern parts of the state having the most standing corn of any region. Most of the ground was frozen for opening day of the gun season, but above freezing temperature and rain may have inhibited hunters from accessing remote hunting areas. Sales of gun deer licenses in 2014 were down from the previous year. Overall hunting conditions ranked a qualitative 5 on a scale of 1 to 10. This is in comparison to a 4 in 2013.

Starting in 2009, deer hunters were asked at the time of registration to rate the weather conditions, deer seen, and hours hunted on the day they killed their deer. Hunters rated the weather on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the worst. Mean weather ranking for the opening day of the 9-day gun season was 6.5, much above last year's 4.2 and more in line with the 7.1 in 2012, 6.0 in 2011, 6.6 in 2010, and 6.1 in 2009; all years were different at the $p < 0.05$ level. The weather ranking for the rest of the season was 6.2, which was above the 5.4 of 2013 and closer to the 6.9 in 2012, 6.3 in 2011, 6.0 in 2010 and 6.2 in 2009; all years were different at the $p \leq 0.05$ level. Most of the state had normal temperatures and some snow cover for opening day, although much of the state had fog early. The number of deer seen per hour hunted for opening day was 1.10, 1.09 in 2013, 1.02 in 2012, 0.96 in 2011, about the same as the 1.08 in

2010, and higher than the 0.79 in 2009; 2014 was different ($p \leq .05$) from all other years except 2013 where there was no difference in the deer seen per hour. Deer seen per hour for the rest of the 9-day season was 1.16, 1.08 in 2013, 1.02 in 2012, 0.96 in 2011, 1.03 in 2010 and 0.80 in 2009; all years were different except 2010 and 2012 ($p \leq .05$). Please note that these rankings are for successful hunters only, and are probably biased by that fact.

Metro deer subunits' gun deer season opened on 22 November and was open for 21 days (running through 10 December). The bag limit was one deer of either sex for the length of the season. Additional antlerless deer permits were available for purchase that allowed hunters to bag additional antlerless deer.

December

All DMZs in the state were open for muzzleloader-only hunting from 1 - 10 December. Muzzleloader hunters in possession of an unused Gun Buck Deer Carcass tag could harvest bucks during this period, while hunters in possession of unused antlerless permits were restricted to antlerless deer only. "Bonus Buck" rules applied in the Southern Farmland DMZ units. Only hunters possessing or accompanying someone with an unused deer permit could take part in the muzzleloader season. Muzzleloaders were allowed to have scopes with a magnification of greater than 1X, which became legal prior to the 2010 muzzleloader season.

Wisconsin held an antlerless-only gun season from 11-14 December in units that allowed antlerless harvest in the Central Farmland and Central Forest DMZ's. This season allowed hunters who were unable to fill their antlerless permits during the 9-day and muzzleloader seasons another chance to kill an antlerless deer.

An antlerless-only holiday hunt was held in units in the Southern Farmland DMZ from 24 December through 1 January. Hunters in these units could kill antlerless deer using any unfilled antlerless tag during this time. All deer hunters, regardless of weapon, were restricted to antlerless deer in this zone.

The archery and crossbow seasons remained open during the youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, December antlerless and holiday hunts. Archers and crossbows users were allowed to bag the same types of deer as gun hunters (antlerless-only during the antlerless season). All deer hunters are required to wear blaze orange during any open gun deer season.

Hunting conditions for the December season(s) were above average. Most of December had average to above temperatures with little snowfall. Large portions of the state were snowless for much of December with only the far north having consistent snow. While this may have made seeing deer more difficult, hunters' ability to access hunting areas was enhanced and should have helped them to find deer. Warmer temperatures may have also increased hunter activity and the length of time in the woods. Hunters killed 14,334 deer in December, up from 2013 when they killed 11,691.

Hunters killed the 27th highest kill total in the last 81 years (304,289; 1st 2000 = 615,293, 2nd 2007 = 518,573) during the archery, crossbow, youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, December antlerless and holiday seasons combined. Only once in the past 25 years has the total deer harvest for Wisconsin fallen below 300,000 (1993). A summary of youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, December antlerless and holiday deer harvest by deer management unit is contained in Table 5-7, and Figures 2-4, respectively.

Agricultural Damage Shooting Program

Wisconsin's agricultural damage deer shooting program was in effect for 2014. In 2014, the Department issued 617 agriculture damage deer shooting permits in 67 counties. The number of deer shooting permits issued in 2014 was relatively unchanged from 2013 when 618 permits were issued in 65 counties. There are two types of deer shooting permits agriculture producers can choose from: permits that require the producer to allow public hunting access during the state deer hunting season, under this option producers are eligible for deer damage compensations; and permits that do not require the producer to allow public hunting access but producers are not eligible for deer damage compensation. Of the two permits types, 312 deer shooting permits were issued where public deer hunting access was required on property the producer owns or leases and 305 deer shooting permits were issued where public hunting access was not required on the property the producer owns or leases.

The number of shooting permits issued each year for the last 10 years are as follows

2005 - 759 permits in 63 counties	2010 - 501 permits in 62 counties
2006 - 709 permits in 63 counties	2011 - 484 permits in 64 counties
2007 - 698 permits in 62 counties	2012 - 521 permits in 67 counties
2008 - 713 permits in 66 counties	2013 - 618 permits in 65 counties
2009 - 611 permits in 66 counties	2014 - 617 Permits in 67 counties

Damage permits were primarily valid for harvesting antlerless deer using a gun (occasional exceptions are made to harvest antlered deer or to use archery equipment for harvest). A total of 4,295 deer were harvested under authority of this program; nearly all (4,148) were antlerless. Data from past years has shown that less than 5% of the damage deer are killed with archery tackle. Because of this, all damage deer are assumed to be killed by gun hunters. Tables 9 & 10 summarize deer harvest in the agricultural damage shooting program.

Chippewa Deer Harvest

Deer hunting in the ceded territory by the tribes of the Lake Superior Chippewa took place from 1 September to 31 December. The Tribes harvested 1,125 deer in 2014. Tribal totals are not included in the statewide gun harvest totals in this report, but used in calculating population estimates for each of the units that have tribal harvest. The total Tribal deer harvest by year is in Table 16. A summary of the 2013 Tribal deer harvest by management unit is contained in Table 17. Other off-reservation treaty harvest information can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

CWD Harvest

With the Deer Trustee Report implementation, the chronic wasting disease (CWD) management zone has been eliminated and is now referred to as CWD-affected areas. These boundaries match the counties that are prohibited from baiting and feeding (35 counties in 2014). A county is included if a wild or captive animal has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD in the county or if a portion of the county that is within a 10-mile radius of where the animal that had been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD.

Special seasons or extensions of seasons no longer exist as they have in the past. Season length and bagging rates were similar to the rest of the state with one exception. Archery, crossbow and gun deer seasons allowed hunters to kill an additional "bonus bucks" if an antlerless deer was taken first for the length of the season, an unlimited number of antlerless and "bonus" bucks could be taken in the Southern Farmland Zone, which contain most of the CWD affected counties.

Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2014.

Deer Management Zone	County	Land type	Permits available	10/11 bonus	Free farmer	NR bonus	NR military	Res bonus	Total permits ¹
Central Farmland	Adams	Private	750	2		64	1	683	750
Central Farmland	Adams	Public	50					49	49
Central Farmland	Barron	Private	1,625	20	25	143		1,437	1,625
Central Farmland	Barron	Public	170	1	2	29	1	137	170
Central Farmland	Brown	Private	1,475	1		2		382	385
Central Farmland	Brown	Public	275	3				157	160
Central Farmland	Buffalo	Private	4,500	28	57	204	1	1,444	1,734
Central Farmland	Buffalo	Public	500	2		46		202	250
Central Farmland	Calumet	Private	875	3	1	1		181	186
Central Farmland	Calumet	Public	250	1				78	79
Central Farmland	Chippewa	Private	3,350	19	60	76		1,527	1,682
Central Farmland	Chippewa	Public	375	2		9		364	375
Central Farmland	Clark	Private	2,600	12	88	67		1,429	1,596
Central Farmland	Clark	Public	100	1		1		95	97
Central Farmland	Door	Private	2,575	7		21	1	475	504
Central Farmland	Door	Public	475	1		9	2	141	153
Central Farmland	Dunn	Private	3,425	25	25	193	2	1,572	1,817
Central Farmland	Dunn	Public	275	1		25		249	275
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	Private	1,600	8	10	21		818	857
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	Public	100	1		2		97	100
Central Farmland	Fond du Lac	Private	2,175	9	20	10		704	743
Central Farmland	Fond du Lac	Public	450	1	1	3		445	450
Central Farmland	Green Lake	Private	2,100	2	29	17		656	704
Central Farmland	Green Lake	Public	250			2		145	147
Central Farmland	Jackson	Private	2,925	17	16	59	2	886	980
Central Farmland	Jackson	Public	150		1	7		142	150
Central Farmland	Juneau	Private	2,075	6	11	69		665	751
Central Farmland	Juneau	Public	0						
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	Private	1,750	2	1	14		251	268
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	Public	325		1			62	63
Central Farmland	La Crosse	Private	2,000	6	14	22		659	701
Central Farmland	La Crosse	Public	500		1	3		95	99
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	Private	2,400	4	4	7		529	544
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	Public	425		1			174	175
Central Farmland	Marathon	Private	7,075	27	58	61	1	2,534	2,681
Central Farmland	Marathon	Public	1,250	2	1	16	1	1,096	1,116
Central Farmland	Marinette	Private	2,550	8	3	51	1	1,027	1,090
Central Farmland	Marinette	Public	450	2		6		442	450
Central Farmland	Marquette	Private	3,200	3	4	66	2	940	1,015
Central Farmland	Marquette	Public	225			5		220	225
Central Farmland	Monroe	Private	3,500	6	39	69	2	865	981
Central Farmland	Monroe	Public	500	1		19		228	248
Central Farmland	Oconto	Private	4,050	6	16	17		740	779
Central Farmland	Oconto	Public	675	2	1	6		414	423
Central Farmland	Outagamie	Private	2,300	18	20	12		657	707

Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2014.

Deer Management Zone	County	Land type	Permits available	10/11 bonus	Free farmer	NR bonus	NR military	Res bonus	Total permits ¹
Central Farmland	Outagamie	Public	425	1		2		157	160
Central Farmland	Pepin	Private	1,175	9	21	106		504	640
Central Farmland	Pepin	Public	100	1		16		83	100
Central Farmland	Pierce	Private	1,975	15	13	178	1	1,279	1,486
Central Farmland	Pierce	Public	150	2		28		120	150
Central Farmland	Polk	Private	2,175	24	18	455	1	1,677	2,175
Central Farmland	Polk	Public	350	1		102	1	246	350
Central Farmland	Portage	Private	2,875	17	25	22		1,331	1,395
Central Farmland	Portage	Public	725	2	1	4		444	451
Central Farmland	Shawano	Private	6,450	9	28	26	1	1,388	1,452
Central Farmland	Shawano	Public	2,150	3	1	2		244	250
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	Private	1,350	3	8	5		688	704
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	Public	350	3		1		346	350
Central Farmland	St Croix	Private	1,875	15	12	121	2	937	1,087
Central Farmland	St Croix	Public	225		2	42		181	225
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	Private	4,500	24	40	101	2	1,300	1,467
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	Public	500		1	8		170	179
Central Farmland	Waupaca	Private	6,775	18	46	36	1	1,510	1,611
Central Farmland	Waupaca	Public	300	2	1	1		211	215
Central Farmland	Waushara	Private	2,925	9	13	53	3	966	1,044
Central Farmland	Waushara	Public	300			6		294	300
Central Farmland	Winnebago	Private	1,175	6		2		283	291
Central Farmland	Winnebago	Public	250	1		1		102	104
Central Farmland	Wood	Private	1,000	11	26	18		945	1,000
Central Farmland	Wood	Public	0						
Central Farmland Total¹			108,720	436	766	2,790	29	41,499	45,520
Central Forest	Adams	Private	2,400	5	2	113		2,279	2,399
Central Forest	Adams	Public	425			13		409	422
Central Forest	Clark	Private	2,400	16	64	102	2	2,216	2,400
Central Forest	Clark	Public	800	2	1	24		772	799
Central Forest	Eau Claire	Private	1,050	10	29	36	1	974	1,050
Central Forest	Eau Claire	Public	575	1		14		560	575
Central Forest	Jackson	Private	0	17	16	59	2	886	980
Central Forest	Jackson	Public	0		1	7		142	150
Central Forest	Juneau	Private	450	4		37		407	448
Central Forest	Juneau	Public	50			2		48	50
Central Forest	Monroe	Private	100	1	3	1		93	98
Central Forest	Monroe	Public	0						
Central Forest	Wood	Private	0						
Central Forest	Wood	Public	0						
Central Forest Total			8,250	56	116	408	5	8,786	9,371
Northern Forest	Ashland	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Ashland	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Bayfield	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Bayfield	Public	0						

Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2014.

Deer Management Zone	County	Land type	Permits available	10/11 bonus	Free farmer	NR bonus	NR military	Res bonus	Total permits ¹
Northern Forest	Burnett	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Burnett	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Douglas	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Douglas	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Florence	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Florence	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Forest	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Forest	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Iron	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Iron	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Langlade	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Langlade	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Lincoln	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Lincoln	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Marinette	Private	1,050	6	2	33	1	1,006	1,048
Northern Forest	Marinette	Public	700	3		11		686	700
Northern Forest	Menominee	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Menominee	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Oconto	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Oconto	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Oneida	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Oneida	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Price	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Price	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Rusk	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Rusk	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Sawyer	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Sawyer	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Taylor	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Taylor	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Vilas	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Vilas	Public	0						
Northern Forest	Washburn	Private	0						
Northern Forest	Washburn	Public	0						
Northern Forest Total			1,750	9	2	44	1	1,692	1,748
Southern Farmland	Columbia	Private	3,275	10	21	50		1,201	1,282
Southern Farmland	Columbia	Public	600	2	2	3		391	398
Southern Farmland	Crawford	Private	3,200	13	13	68	3	927	1,024
Southern Farmland	Crawford	Public	800		3	6	1	222	232
Southern Farmland	Dane	Private	4,000	7	14	22		946	989
Southern Farmland	Dane	Public	550	1		13		265	279
Southern Farmland	Dodge	Private	2,075	10	26	21		999	1,056
Southern Farmland	Dodge	Public	550	3	1	2		335	341
Southern Farmland	Grant	Private	4,700	15	38	115	2	1,202	1,372
Southern Farmland	Grant	Public	450			6		190	196

Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2014.

Deer Management Zone	County	Land type	Permits available	10/11 bonus	Free farmer	NR bonus	NR military	Res bonus	Total permits ¹
Southern Farmland	Green	Private	2,000	7	23	30		610	670
Southern Farmland	Green	Public	125			3		115	118
Southern Farmland	Iowa	Private	3,550	11	25	41	2	1,125	1,204
Southern Farmland	Iowa	Public	350		2	4		308	314
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	Private	1,800	4	1	5		668	678
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	Public	300	1				257	258
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	Private	525	1	1	10		210	222
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	Public	100			7		82	89
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	Private	1,475	8	8	55		669	740
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	Public	100		1	1		98	100
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	Private	425					129	129
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	Public	25			1		22	23
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	Private	1,350	7	2	2		390	401
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	Public	175	2		1		123	126
Southern Farmland	Racine	Private	600		2	3	1	234	240
Southern Farmland	Racine	Public	75					75	75
Southern Farmland	Richland	Private	3,225	11	36	84	2	1,376	1,509
Southern Farmland	Richland	Public	225	1		6		210	217
Southern Farmland	Rock	Private	1,550	13	9	15		545	582
Southern Farmland	Rock	Public	225	2		8		165	175
Southern Farmland	Sauk	Private	4,175	16	17	50	1	1,635	1,719
Southern Farmland	Sauk	Public	525	4		14		412	430
Southern Farmland	Vernon	Private	4,400	20	77	91	2	1,736	1,926
Southern Farmland	Vernon	Public	600	6	3	10		346	365
Southern Farmland	Walworth	Private	950	1	2	25		374	402
Southern Farmland	Walworth	Public	225	2		12		197	211
Southern Farmland	Washington	Private	1,700	4	7	7		927	945
Southern Farmland	Washington	Public	300			5		342	347
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	Private	1,875	2	1	1		724	728
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	Public	375	1		2		291	294
Southern Farmland Total¹			53,525	185	335	799	14	21,073	22,406
Superior metro	Douglas	Private	50			4		46	50
Superior metro	Douglas	Public	150	1		10		139	150
Superior metro Total			200	1	0	14	0	185	200
Grand total			172,445	687	1,219	4,055	49	73,235	79,245

¹ All deer harvest license holders were issue one antlerless deer tag valid in both Farmland Deer Management zones, those tags are not account for in these totals.

Table 2. Antlerless deer quota, permits available, permits issued, harvest, and percent of quota killed by Deer Management Zone and Unit for the 2014 season.

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlerless Quota	Permits Available	Permits Issued	Antlerless Harvest	% of Quota
Central Farmland	Adams	1,229	800	799	652	53.05%
Central Farmland	Barron	2,800	1,795	1,795	3,796	135.57%
Central Farmland	Brown	2,675	1,750	545	1,484	55.48%
Central Farmland	Buffalo	7,391	5,000	1,984	4,881	66.04%
Central Farmland	Calumet	1,700	1,125	265	733	43.12%
Central Farmland	Chippewa	5,681	3,725	2,057	3,900	68.65%
Central Farmland	Clark	4,180	2,700	1,693	3,098	74.11%
Central Farmland	Door	4,700	3,050	657	1,966	41.83%
Central Farmland	Dunn	5,757	3,700	2,092	4,649	80.75%
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	2,600	1,700	957	1,824	70.15%
Central Farmland	Fond du Lac	4,050	2,625	1,193	2,551	62.99%
Central Farmland	Green Lake	3,600	2,350	851	2,369	65.81%
Central Farmland	Jackson	4,780	3,075	1,130	2,899	60.65%
Central Farmland	Juneau	3,227	2,075	751	1,359	42.11%
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	3,175	2,075	331	1,377	43.37%
Central Farmland	La Crosse	3,609	2,500	800	2,527	70.02%
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	4,400	2,825	719	2,296	52.18%
Central Farmland	Marathon	13,000	8,325	3,797	7,227	55.59%
Central Farmland	Marinette	4,675	3,000	1,540	2,114	45.22%
Central Farmland	Marquette	5,300	3,425	1,240	3,569	67.34%
Central Farmland	Monroe	6,696	4,000	1,229	3,493	52.17%
Central Farmland	Oconto	7,325	4,725	1,202	3,109	42.44%
Central Farmland	Outagamie	4,200	2,725	867	2,840	67.62%
Central Farmland	Pepin	1,947	1,275	740	1,732	88.96%
Central Farmland	Pierce	3,258	2,125	1,636	2,923	89.72%
Central Farmland	Polk	3,900	2,525	2,525	5,403	138.54%
Central Farmland	Portage	6,400	3,600	1,846	3,941	61.58%
Central Farmland	Shawano	13,400	8,600	1,702	2,527	18.86%
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	2,600	1,700	1,054	6,192	238.15%
Central Farmland	St Croix	3,249	2,100	1,312	1,727	53.15%
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	6,994	5,000	1,646	4,388	62.74%
Central Farmland	Waupaca	11,000	7,075	1,826	6,500	59.09%
Central Farmland	Waushara	5,000	3,225	1,344	3,324	66.48%
Central Farmland	Winnebago	2,200	1,425	395	1,407	63.95%
Central Farmland	Wood	1,500	1,000	1,000	2,322	154.80%
Central Forest	Adams	1,400	2,825	2,821	1,280	91.43%
Central Forest	Clark	1,550	3,200	3,199	1,438	92.77%
Central Forest	Eau Claire	800	1,625	1,625	599	74.88%
Central Forest	Jackson	0	0		230	
Central Forest	Juneau	250	500	498	366	146.40%
Central Forest	Monroe	50	100	98	219	438.00%
Central Forest	Wood	0	0		258	
Northern Forest	Ashland	0	0		133	
Northern Forest	Bayfield	0	0		264	

Table 2. Antlerless deer quota, permits available, permits issued, harvest, and percent of quota killed by Deer Management Zone and Unit for the 2014 season.

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlerless Quota	Permits Available	Permits Issued	Antlerless Harvest	% of Quota
Northern Forest	Burnett	0	0		458	
Northern Forest	Douglas (Superior Subzone)	0	200	200	415	
Northern Forest	Florence	0	0		396	
Northern Forest	Forest	0	0		349	
Northern Forest	Iron	0	0		52	
Northern Forest	Langlade	0	0		454	
Northern Forest	Lincoln	0	0		423	
Northern Forest	Marinette	500	1,750	1,748	1,276	255.20%
Northern Forest	Menominee	0	0		0	
Northern Forest	Oconto	0	0		306	
Northern Forest	Oneida	0	0		468	
Northern Forest	Price	0	0		386	
Northern Forest	Rusk	0	0		477	
Northern Forest	Sawyer	0	0		311	
Northern Forest	Taylor	0	0		826	
Northern Forest	Vilas	0	0		385	
Northern Forest	Washburn	0	0		387	
Southern Farmland	Columbia	4,850	3,875	1,680	3,490	71.96%
Southern Farmland	Crawford	5,421	4,000	1,256	2,733	50.42%
Southern Farmland	Dane	5,750	4,550	1,268	2,093	36.40%
Southern Farmland	Dodge	3,200	2,625	1,397	2,689	84.03%
Southern Farmland	Grant	6,300	5,150	1,568	3,484	55.30%
Southern Farmland	Green	2,700	2,125	788	1,243	46.04%
Southern Farmland	Iowa	4,750	3,900	1,518	2,622	55.20%
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	2,600	2,100	936	1,470	56.54%
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	650	625	311	204	31.38%
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	2,000	1,575	840	1,389	69.45%
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	550	450	152	89	16.18%
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	1,000	1,525	527	766	76.60%
Southern Farmland	Racine	700	675	315	293	41.86%
Southern Farmland	Richland	4,050	3,450	1,726	2,960	73.09%
Southern Farmland	Rock	2,300	1,775	757	976	42.43%
Southern Farmland	Sauk	5,650	4,700	2,149	3,994	70.69%
Southern Farmland	Vernon	6,700	5,000	2,291	4,576	68.30%
Southern Farmland	Walworth	1,250	1,175	613	683	54.64%
Southern Farmland	Washington	2,600	2,000	1,292	2,073	79.73%
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	2,700	2,250	1,022	1,136	42.07%

Table 3. *Nine-day gun season opening day deer hunting pressure expressed as hunters per square mile of deer range, with current deer range densities 2014.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Deer Range	2014^a
Central Farmland	Adams	72.07	31.1
Central Farmland	Barron	530.99	13.9
Central Farmland	Brown	113.47	34.9
Central Farmland	Buffalo	559.95	14.5
Central Farmland	Calumet	68.6	35.2
Central Farmland	Chippewa	665.88	9.8
Central Farmland	Clark	273.17	13.9
Central Farmland	Door	272.16	19
Central Farmland	Dunn	585.77	12.6
Central Farmland	Eau claire	287.72	14.4
Central Farmland	Fond du lac	214.43	34.5
Central Farmland	Green lake	179.13	27.9
Central Farmland	Jackson	374.28	21.2
Central Farmland	Juneau	231.29	21.6
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	97.56	42.4
Central Farmland	La crosse	320.14	19.4
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	174.95	28.6
Central Farmland	Marathon	1000.16	19.6
Central Farmland	Marinette	345.96	12.4
Central Farmland	Marquette	342.73	21.1
Central Farmland	Monroe	539.21	17.2
Central Farmland	Oconto	413.03	23.4
Central Farmland	Outagamie	192.9	29.5
Central Farmland	Pepin	165.04	17.7
Central Farmland	Pierce	266.77	18.7
Central Farmland	Polk	623.37	14.9
Central Farmland	Portage	502.89	24.3
Central Farmland	St. Croix	239.24	22.3
Central Farmland	Shawano	579.7	24.4
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	190.74	30.7
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	541.65	16.9
Central Farmland	Waupaca	480.64	33.7
Central Farmland	Waushara	383.45	29.2
Central Farmland	Winnebago	112.94	29
Central Farmland	Wood	263.13	19.6
Central Forest	Adams	430.39	23.6
Central Forest	Clark	474.71	23.6
Central Forest	Eau claire	173.23	13.9
Central Forest	Jackson	452.88	9.1
Central Forest	Juneau	380.52	15.8
Central Forest	Monroe	108.57	11.1
Central Forest	Wood	294.58	12.9
Northern Forest	Ashland	821.69	5.9
Northern Forest	Bayfield	1409.69	7.7
Northern Forest	Burnett	762.68	12
Northern Forest	Douglas	1238.2	6
Northern Forest	Florence	477.22	18
Northern Forest	Forest	996.54	9.2

Table 3. *Nine-day gun season opening day deer hunting pressure expressed as hunters per square mile of deer range, with current deer range densities 2014.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Deer Range	2014^a
Northern Forest	Iron	711.55	4.6
Northern Forest	Langlade	748.59	12.4
Northern Forest	Lincoln	797.12	14.9
Northern Forest	Marinette	920.62	16.5
Northern Forest	Menominee	.	.
Northern Forest	Oconto	336.93	20.4
Northern Forest	Oneida	1072.2	10.6
Northern Forest	Price	1199.87	10.3
Northern Forest	Rusk	818.11	11.4
Northern Forest	Sawyer	1113.47	9.3
Northern Forest	Taylor	814.2	17.8
Northern Forest	Vilas	769.09	11.9
Northern Forest	Washburn	745.84	12.2
Southern Farmland	Columbia	370.92	35.3
Southern Farmland	Crawford	455.33	11.3
Southern Farmland	Dane	428.74	15.3
Southern Farmland	Dodge	272.75	24
Southern Farmland	Grant	547.09	15.1
Southern Farmland	Green	179.79	13.4
Southern Farmland	Iowa	417.64	22.7
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	196.83	30.6
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	92.74	7.4
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	146.29	29.4
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	46.42	.
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	78.21	15.4
Southern Farmland	Racine	100.29	12
Southern Farmland	Richland	415.11	20.7
Southern Farmland	Rock	138.42	14.9
Southern Farmland	Sauk	525.39	16.7
Southern Farmland	Vernon	525.85	14.4
Southern Farmland	Walworth	177.47	9.7
Southern Farmland	Washington	187.83	19.3
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	245.97	10.5

^a Opening day pressure is obtained from a survey sent to 10,000 Gun Deer and Sports license holders every year. The survey asks hunters to list the unit they hunted in each day of the season. Results from this survey are expanded to estimate the total hunters in each unit. Sampling problems can affect the estimates. Quota permit allocation and season structure may also shift hunting pressure. Questions or comments should be directed to Brian Dhuey.

GUN HARVEST

Wisconsin hunters killed 222,588 deer with a firearm during the 2014 Youth, 9-day gun, muzzleloader, December antlerless only, and holiday deer seasons. Summaries of the harvest by deer management zone and unit are found in Tables 4-8 and Figures 1-4, respectively.

Table 4. The total 2014 gun deer harvest by deer management zone.

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total	Damage ^a
Central Farmland Zone	53,316	83,660	703	137,679	2,667
Central Forest Zone	4,465	3,387	29	7,881	192
Northern Forest Zone	19,817	6,691	121	26,629	505
Southern Farmland Zone	19,598	30,335	427	50,360	869
Unknown Zone	0	39	0	39	39
Total	97,196	124,112	1,280	222,588	4,272

^a Included in antlered and antlerless totals

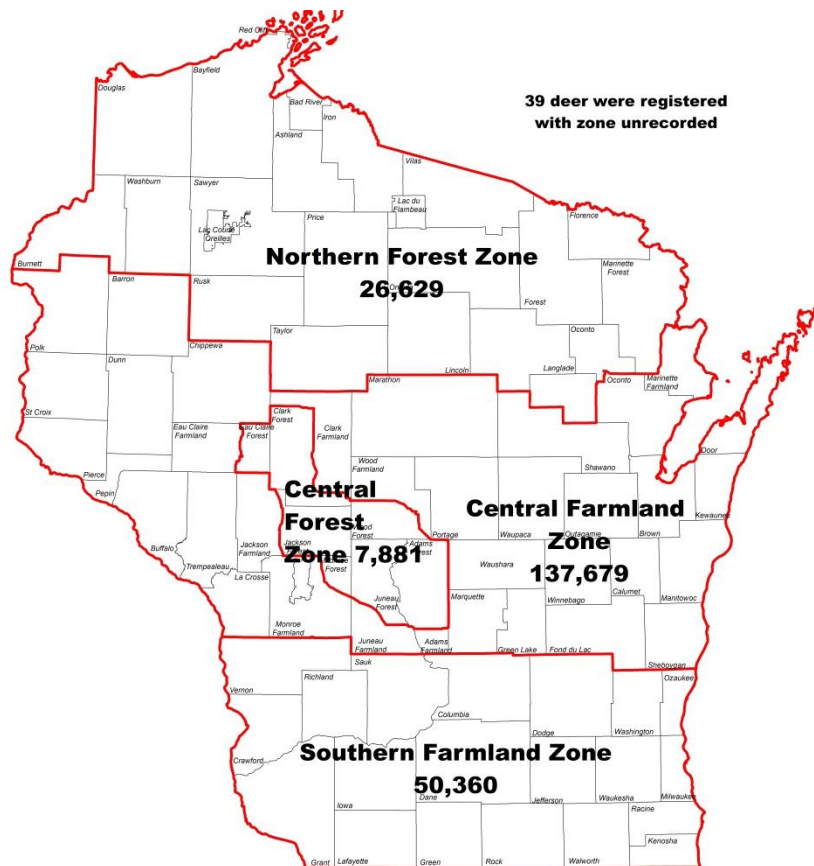
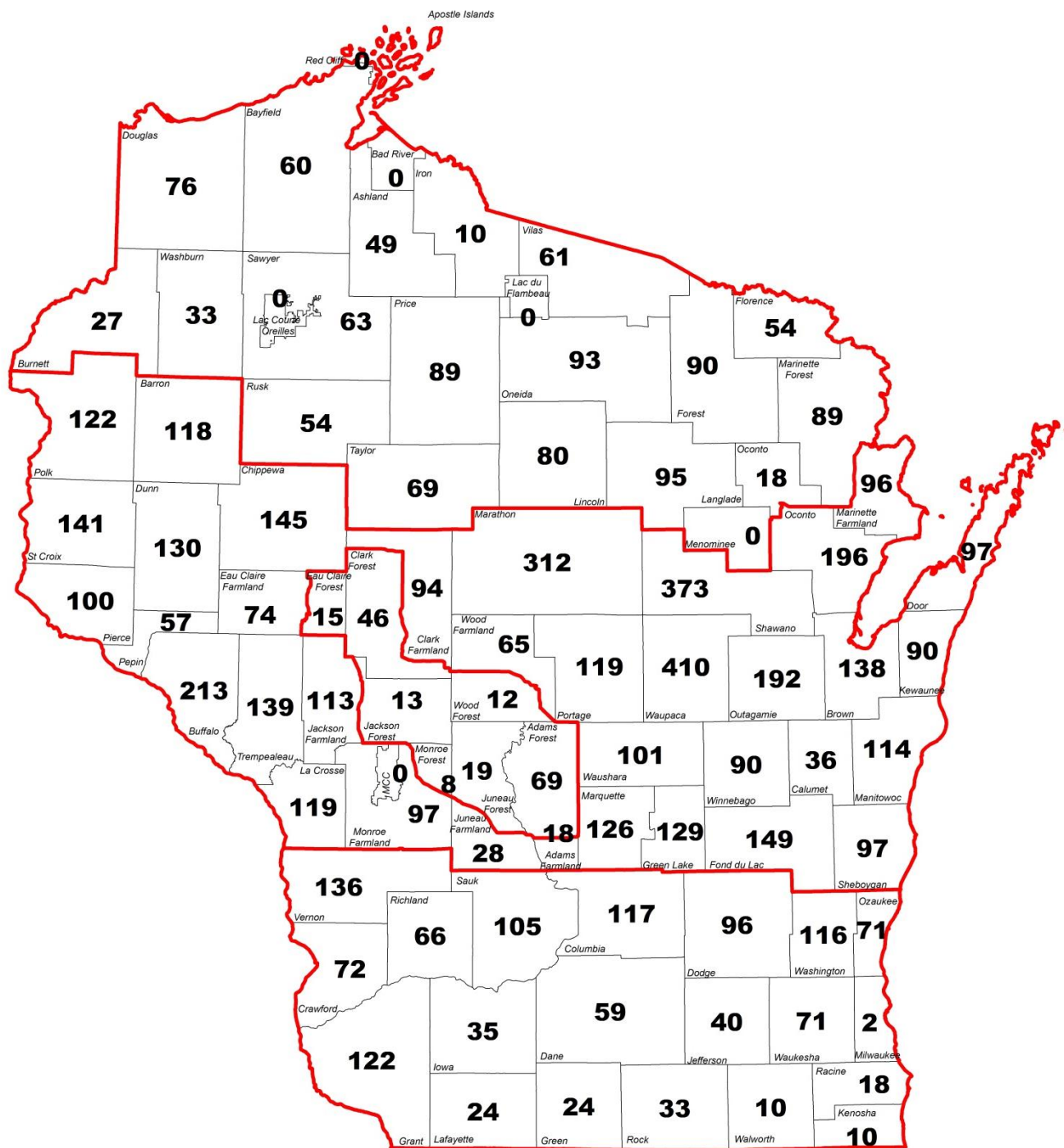
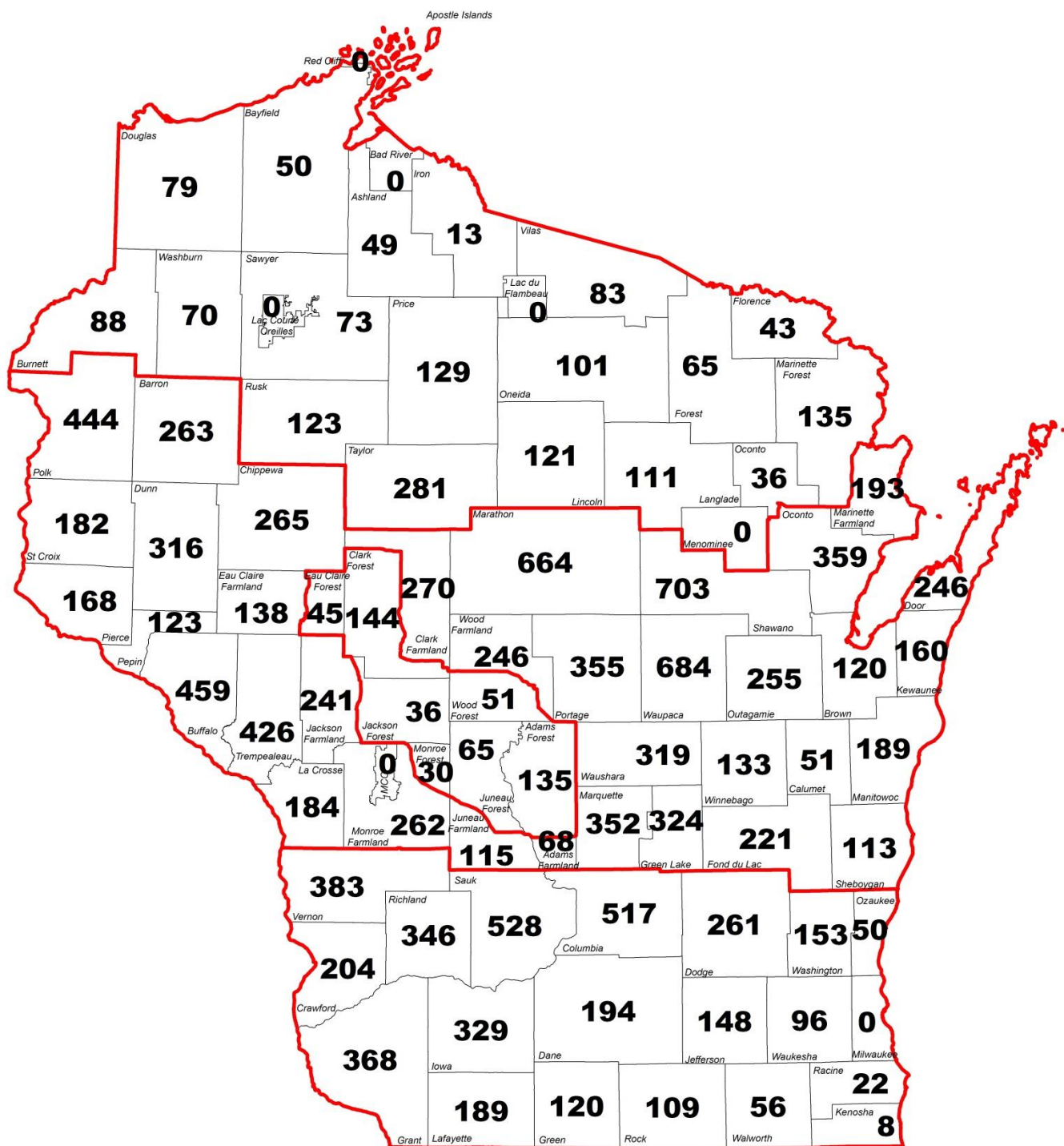


Figure 1. The 2014 gun deer harvest by deer management zone.



Total Muzzleloader Harvest = 7,157

Figure 3. The 2014 muzzleloader harvest by deer management unit.



Total Youth, December Antlerless, and Holiday Harvest = 15,848

Figure 4. The 2014 youth, December antlerless only, and holiday antlerless season deer harvest by management unit. All deer units were open for the Youth season, Central Farmland and Forest during the December antlerless season and the Southern Farmland during the Holiday antlerless deer season.

Table 5. Summary of the 2014 9-day gun deer harvest by zone and unit.

County	Deer Management Zone	9-Day Antlered	9-Day Antlerless	9-Day Unks	9-Day Total	County	Deer Management Zone	9-Day Antlered	9-Day Antlerless	9-Day Unks	9-Day Total
Adams	Central Farmland	327	407	3	737	Ashland	Northern Forest	519	90	4	613
Barron	Central Farmland	1,824	2,851	27	4,702	Bad River	Northern Forest	19	3	0	22
Brown	Central Farmland	722	815	4	1,541	Bayfield	Northern Forest	1,290	201	11	1,502
Buffalo	Central Farmland	1,807	3,321	15	5,143	Burnett	Northern Forest	1,425	362	14	1,801
Calumet	Central Farmland	374	521	15	910	Douglas	Northern Forest	1,247	259	17	1,523
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1,460	2,620	32	4,112	Florence	Northern Forest	709	338	8	1,055
Clark	Central Farmland	1,279	2,180	7	3,466	Forest	Northern Forest	779	253	4	1,036
Door	Central Farmland	1,369	1,310	5	2,684	Iron	Northern Forest	170	35	1	206
Dunn	Central Farmland	2,200	3,502	15	5,717	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	2	0	0	2
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	705	1,130	6	1,841	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	1	1	0	2
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	1,180	1,651	30	2,861	Langlade	Northern Forest	1,050	311	4	1,365
Green Lake	Central Farmland	1,164	1,528	6	2,698	Lincoln	Northern Forest	955	293	0	1,248
Jackson	Central Farmland	1,208	1,966	7	3,181	Marinette	Northern Forest	1,907	930	8	2,845
Juneau	Central Farmland	790	978	3	1,771	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	851	976	14	1,841	Oconto	Northern Forest	537	215	1	753
La Crosse	Central Farmland	1,109	1,715	11	2,835	Oneida	Northern Forest	1,147	290	5	1,442
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1,184	1,581	17	2,782	Price	Northern Forest	862	254	2	1,118
Marathon	Central Farmland	3,132	4,828	45	8,005	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	3	0	0	3
Marinette	Central Farmland	1,310	1,387	6	2,703	Rusk	Northern Forest	1,321	343	3	1,667
Marquette	Central Farmland	1,628	2,415	2	4,045	Sawyer	Northern Forest	871	231	3	1,105
McCoy	Central Farmland	216	354	0	570	Taylor	Northern Forest	1,408	522	11	1,941
Monroe	Central Farmland	1,817	2,585	15	4,417	Vilas	Northern Forest	883	250	9	1,142
Oconto	Central Farmland	1,708	1,910	12	3,630	Washburn	Northern Forest	1,156	312	9	1,477
Outagamie	Central Farmland	1,211	1,741	22	2,974	Northern Forest Total		18,262	5,493	114	23,869
Pepin	Central Farmland	599	1,258	8	1,865	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1,848	2,218	19	4,085
Pierce	Central Farmland	1,226	2,107	8	3,341	Crawford	Southern Farmland	1,238	2,139	8	3,385
Polk	Central Farmland	2,548	4,136	15	6,699	Dane	Southern Farmland	1,007	1,367	38	2,412
Portage	Central Farmland	1,870	2,801	13	4,684	Dodge	Southern Farmland	1,142	1,722	34	2,898
St Croix	Central Farmland	938	1,643	4	2,585	Grant	Southern Farmland	1,865	2,565	28	4,458
Shawano	Central Farmland	3,115	4,053	78	7,246	Green	Southern Farmland	554	907	13	1,474
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	713	1,162	84	1,959	Iowa	Southern Farmland	1,455	1,841	16	3,312
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	1,884	3,122	17	5,023	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	613	960	14	1,587
Waupaca	Central Farmland	3,063	4,158	20	7,241	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	106	85	8	199
Waushara	Central Farmland	1,557	2,193	10	3,760	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	663	1,036	34	1,733
Winnebago	Central Farmland	641	826	2	1,469	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	10	12	1	23
Wood	Central Farmland	910	1,474	8	2,392	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	223	379	10	612
Central Farmland Total		49,639	73,205	586	123,430	Racine	Southern Farmland	108	141	3	252
Adams	Central Forest	1,144	839	6	1,989	Richland	Southern Farmland	1,720	2,066	6	3,792
Clark	Central Forest	1,012	938	3	1,953	Rock	Southern Farmland	418	603	18	1,039
Eau Claire	Central Forest	300	404	7	711	Sauk	Southern Farmland	2,132	2,678	21	4,831
Jackson	Central Forest	462	170	4	636	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2,247	3,416	10	5,673
Juneau	Central Forest	565	258	1	824	Walworth	Southern Farmland	272	401	7	680
Monroe	Central Forest	247	159	2	408	Washington	Southern Farmland	609	1,189	21	1,819
Wood	Central Forest	490	181	1	672	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	350	427	11	788
Central Forest Total		4,220	2,949	24	7,193	Southern Farmland Total		18,580	26,152	320	45,052
						Unknown	Unknown	0	39	0	39
								0	39	0	39
						Grand Total		90,701	107,838	1,044	199,583

Table 6. Summary of the 2014 muzzleloader deer harvest by zone and unit.

County	Deer Management Zone	Muzz Antlered	Muzz Antlerless	Muzz Unks	Muzz Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Muzz Antlered	Muzz Antlerless	Muzz Unks	Muzz Total
Adams	Central Farmland	6	12	0	18	Ashland	Northern Forest	45	4	0	49
Barron	Central Farmland	29	89	0	118	Bad River	Northern Forest				0
Brown	Central Farmland	48	90	0	138	Bayfield	Northern Forest	53	7	0	60
Buffalo	Central Farmland	55	158	0	213	Burnett	Northern Forest	22	5	0	27
Calumet	Central Farmland	13	22	1	36	Douglas	Northern Forest	63	13	0	76
Chippewa	Central Farmland	41	102	2	145	Florence	Northern Forest	43	11	0	54
Clark	Central Farmland	35	59	0	94	Forest	Northern Forest	68	22	0	90
Door	Central Farmland	36	61	0	97	Iron	Northern Forest	9	1	0	10
Dunn	Central Farmland	38	91	1	130	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest				0
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	21	53	0	74	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest				0
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	53	94	2	149	Langlade	Northern Forest	75	20	0	95
Green Lake	Central Farmland	27	101	1	129	Lincoln	Northern Forest	67	13	0	80
Jackson	Central Farmland	32	81	0	113	Marinette	Northern Forest	57	32	0	89
Juneau	Central Farmland	11	17	0	28	Menominee	Northern Forest				0
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	28	61	1	90	Oconto	Northern Forest	14	4	0	18
La Crosse	Central Farmland	34	85	0	119	Oneida	Northern Forest	71	22	0	93
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	41	73	0	114	Price	Northern Forest	80	9	0	89
Marathon	Central Farmland	85	224	3	312	Red Cliff	Northern Forest				0
Marinette	Central Farmland	32	64	0	96	Rusk	Northern Forest	45	9	0	54
Marquette	Central Farmland	38	88	0	126	Sawyer	Northern Forest	53	9	1	63
MCCoy	Central Farmland				0	Taylor	Northern Forest	54	15	0	69
Monroe	Central Farmland	32	65	0	97	Vilas	Northern Forest	46	14	1	61
Oconto	Central Farmland	56	140	0	196	Washburn	Northern Forest	27	5	1	33
Outagamie	Central Farmland	61	131	0	192	Northern Forest Total		892	215	3	1,110
Pepin	Central Farmland	17	40	0	57	Columbia	Southern Farmland	27	88	2	117
Pierce	Central Farmland	39	61	0	100	Crawford	Southern Farmland	22	50	0	72
Polk	Central Farmland	33	88	1	122	Dane	Southern Farmland	25	32	2	59
Portage	Central Farmland	33	86	0	119	Dodge	Southern Farmland	27	65	4	96
St Croix	Central Farmland	43	96	2	141	Grant	Southern Farmland	37	82	3	122
Shawano	Central Farmland	111	256	6	373	Green	Southern Farmland	6	18	0	24
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	26	66	5	97	Iowa	Southern Farmland	11	24	0	35
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	33	106	0	139	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	17	22	1	40
Waupaca	Central Farmland	112	297	1	410	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	4	6	0	10
Waushara	Central Farmland	29	71	1	101	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	7	14	3	24
Winnebago	Central Farmland	32	58	0	90	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	1	0	1	2
Wood	Central Farmland	20	45	0	65	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	20	50	1	71
Central Farmland Total		1,380	3,231	27	4,638	Racine	Southern Farmland	8	10	0	18
Adams	Central Forest	34	35	0	69	Richland	Southern Farmland	19	47	0	66
Clark	Central Forest	18	28	0	46	Rock	Southern Farmland	12	21	0	33
Eau Claire	Central Forest	6	9	0	15	Sauk	Southern Farmland	29	75	1	105
Jackson	Central Forest	12	1	0	13	Vernon	Southern Farmland	47	88	1	136
Juneau	Central Forest	6	12	1	19	Walworth	Southern Farmland	5	5	0	10
Monroe	Central Forest	5	3	0	8	Washington	Southern Farmland	43	73	0	116
Wood	Central Forest	9	2	1	12	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	30	41	0	71
Central Forest Total		90	90	2	182	Southern Farmland Total		397	811	19	1,227
						Unknown	Unknown				0
						Unknown Total		0	0	0	0
						Grand Total		2,759	4,347	51	7,157

Table 7. Summary of the 2014 Youth, December antlerless, and holiday antlerless season deer harvest by unit and deer management zone.

County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	13	53	2	68
Barron	Central Farmland	71	187	5	263
Brown	Central Farmland	34	86	0	120
Buffalo	Central Farmland	96	359	4	459
Calumet	Central Farmland	10	40	1	51
Chippewa	Central Farmland	67	191	7	265
Clark	Central Farmland	67	199	4	270
Door	Central Farmland	68	176	2	246
Dunn	Central Farmland	84	231	1	316
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	35	101	2	138
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	65	150	6	221
Green Lake	Central Farmland	64	259	1	324
Jackson	Central Farmland	66	175	0	241
Juneau	Central Farmland	27	88	0	115
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	52	107	1	160
La Crosse	Central Farmland	46	138	0	184
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	49	139	1	189
Marathon	Central Farmland	172	490	2	664
Marinette	Central Farmland	44	147	2	193
Marquette	Central Farmland	77	274	1	352
MCCoy	Central Farmland	0	0	0	0
Monroe	Central Farmland	61	200	1	262
Oconto	Central Farmland	81	275	3	359
Outagamie	Central Farmland	51	204	0	255
Pepin	Central Farmland	22	97	4	123
Pierce	Central Farmland	49	118	1	168
Polk	Central Farmland	109	332	3	444
Portage	Central Farmland	95	257	3	355
St Croix	Central Farmland	44	137	1	182
Shawano	Central Farmland	162	532	9	703
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	31	76	6	113
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	104	322	0	426
Waupaca	Central Farmland	146	530	8	684
Waushara	Central Farmland	63	252	4	319
Winnebago	Central Farmland	21	110	2	133
Wood	Central Farmland	51	192	3	246
Central Farmland Total		2,297	7,224	90	9,611
Adams	Central Forest	25	110	0	135
Clark	Central Forest	49	95	0	144
Eau Claire	Central Forest	7	37	1	45
Jackson	Central Forest	16	20	0	36
Juneau	Central Forest	27	37	1	65
Monroe	Central Forest	11	19	0	30
Wood	Central Forest	20	30	1	51
Central Forest Total		155	348	3	506

County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total Kill
Ashland	Northern Forest	29	20	0	49
Bad River	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Bayfield	Northern Forest	26	24	0	50
Burnett	Northern Forest	37	51	0	88
Douglas	Northern Forest	29	50	0	79
Florence	Northern Forest	8	35	0	43
Forest	Northern Forest	20	45	0	65
Iron	Northern Forest	4	9	0	13
Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Langlade	Northern Forest	40	70	1	111
Lincoln	Northern Forest	55	66	0	121
Marinette	Northern Forest	63	72	0	135
Menominee	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Oconto	Northern Forest	20	16	0	36
Oneida	Northern Forest	31	70	0	101
Price	Northern Forest	49	80	0	129
Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Rusk	Northern Forest	46	76	1	123
Sawyer	Northern Forest	29	44	0	73
Taylor	Northern Forest	112	167	2	281
Vilas	Northern Forest	30	53	0	83
Washburn	Northern Forest	35	35	0	70
Northern Forest Total		663	983	4	1,650
Columbia	Southern Farmland	87	423	7	517
Crawford	Southern Farmland	31	170	3	204
Dane	Southern Farmland	26	162	6	194
Dodge	Southern Farmland	50	208	3	261
Grant	Southern Farmland	50	314	4	368
Green	Southern Farmland	12	100	8	120
Iowa	Southern Farmland	69	257	3	329
Jefferson	Southern Farmland	14	132	2	148
Kenosha	Southern Farmland	1	7	0	8
Lafayette	Southern Farmland	25	155	9	189
Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	0	0	0	0
Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	9	41	0	50
Racine	Southern Farmland	3	18	1	22
Richland	Southern Farmland	47	284	15	346
Rock	Southern Farmland	17	91	1	109
Sauk	Southern Farmland	71	445	12	528
Vernon	Southern Farmland	59	316	8	383
Walworth	Southern Farmland	7	49	0	56
Washington	Southern Farmland	29	121	3	153
Waukesha	Southern Farmland	14	79	3	96
Southern Farmland Total		621	3,372	88	4,081
Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
Unknown Total		0	0	0	0
Grand Total		3,736	11,927	185	15,848

Table 8. Summary of the 2014 gun deer harvest by unit and deer management zone (includes Youth, 9-day, damage, muzzleloader, December antlerless, and holiday seasons).

County	Deer Management Zone	Antlerled	Antlerless	Unk	Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	Antlerled	Antlerless	Unk	Total Kill			
Adams	Central Farmland	346	472	5	823	Ashland	Northern Forest	593	114	4	711			
Barron	Central Farmland	1,924	3,127	32	5,083	Bad River	Northern Forest	19	3	0	22			
Brown	Central Farmland	804	991	4	1,799	Bayfield	Northern Forest	1,369	232	11	1,612			
Buffalo	Central Farmland	1,958	3,838	19	5,815	Burnett	Northern Forest	1,484	418	14	1,916			
Calumet	Central Farmland	397	583	17	997	Douglas	Northern Forest	1,339	322	17	1,678			
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1,568	2,913	41	4,522	Florence	Northern Forest	760	384	8	1,152			
Clark	Central Farmland	1,381	2,438	11	3,830	Forest	Northern Forest	867	320	4	1,191			
Door	Central Farmland	1,473	1,547	7	3,027	Iron	Northern Forest	183	45	1	229			
Dunn	Central Farmland	2,322	3,824	17	6,163	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	2	0	0	2			
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	761	1,284	8	2,053	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	1	1	0	2			
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	1,298	1,895	38	3,231	Langlade	Northern Forest	1,165	401	5	1,571			
Green Lake	Central Farmland	1,255	1,888	8	3,151	Lincoln	Northern Forest	1,077	372	0	1,449			
Jackson	Central Farmland	1,306	2,222	7	3,535	Marinette	Northern Forest	2,027	1,034	8	3,069			
Juneau	Central Farmland	828	1,083	3	1,914	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1			
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	931	1,144	16	2,091	Oconto	Northern Forest	571	235	1	807			
La Crosse	Central Farmland	1,189	1,938	11	3,138	Oneida	Northern Forest	1,249	382	5	1,636			
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1,274	1,793	18	3,085	Price	Northern Forest	991	343	2	1,336			
Marathon	Central Farmland	3,389	5,542	50	8,981	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	3	0	0	3			
Marinette	Central Farmland	1,386	1,598	8	2,992	Rusk	Northern Forest	1,412	428	4	1,844			
Marquette	Central Farmland	1,743	2,777	3	4,523	Sawyer	Northern Forest	953	284	4	1,241			
MCCoy	Central Farmland	216	354	0	570	Taylor	Northern Forest	1,574	704	13	2,291			
Monroe	Central Farmland	1,910	2,850	16	4,776	Vilas	Northern Forest	959	317	10	1,286			
Oconto	Central Farmland	1,845	2,325	15	4,185	Washburn	Northern Forest	1,218	352	10	1,580			
Outagamie	Central Farmland	1,323	2,076	22	3,421	Northern Forest Total					19,817	6,691	121	26,629
Pepin	Central Farmland	638	1,395	12	2,045	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1,962	2,729	28	4,719			
Pierce	Central Farmland	1,314	2,286	9	3,609	Crawford	Southern Farmland	1,291	2,359	11	3,661			
Polk	Central Farmland	2,690	4,556	19	7,265	Dane	Southern Farmland	1,058	1,561	46	2,665			
Portage	Central Farmland	1,998	3,144	16	5,158	Dodge	Southern Farmland	1,219	1,995	41	3,255			
St Croix	Central Farmland	1,025	1,876	7	2,908	Grant	Southern Farmland	1,952	2,961	35	4,948			
Shawano	Central Farmland	3,388	4,841	93	8,322	Green	Southern Farmland	572	1,025	21	1,618			
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	770	1,304	95	2,169	Iowa	Southern Farmland	1,535	2,122	19	3,676			
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	2,021	3,550	17	5,588	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	644	1,114	17	1,775			
Waupaca	Central Farmland	3,321	4,985	29	8,335	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	111	98	8	217			
Wausara	Central Farmland	1,649	2,516	15	4,180	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	695	1,205	46	1,946			
Winnebago	Central Farmland	694	994	4	1,692	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	11	12	2	25			
Wood	Central Farmland	981	1,711	11	2,703	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	252	470	11	733			
Central Farmland Total		53,316	83,660	703	137,679	Racine	Southern Farmland	119	169	4	292			
Adams	Central Forest	1,203	984	6	2,193	Richland	Southern Farmland	1,786	2,397	21	4,204			
Clark	Central Forest	1,079	1,061	3	2,143	Rock	Southern Farmland	447	715	19	1,181			
Eau Claire	Central Forest	313	450	8	771	Sauk	Southern Farmland	2,232	3,198	34	5,464			
Jackson	Central Forest	490	191	4	685	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2,353	3,820	19	6,192			
Juneau	Central Forest	598	307	3	908	Walworth	Southern Farmland	284	455	7	746			
Monroe	Central Forest	263	181	2	446	Washington	Southern Farmland	681	1,383	24	2,088			
Wood	Central Forest	519	213	3	735	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	394	547	14	955			
Central Forest Total		4,465	3,387	29	7,881	Southern Farmland Total					19,598	30,335	427	50,360
Unknown							Unknown	0	39	0	39			
							Unknown Total	0	39	0	39			
Grand Total								97,196	124,112	1,280	222,588			

Hot-Spot Damage

Summaries of Wisconsin's hot-spot damage deer harvest by deer management zone, and deer management unit in Tables 9 & 10.

Table 9. *The 2014 damage deer harvest summary by deer management zone.*

Deer management zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	39	2614	43	2,696
Central Forest	2	189	3	194
Northern Forest	7	424	7	438
Southern Farmland	41	883	5	929
Unknown	0	38	0	38
Total	89	4,148	58	4,295

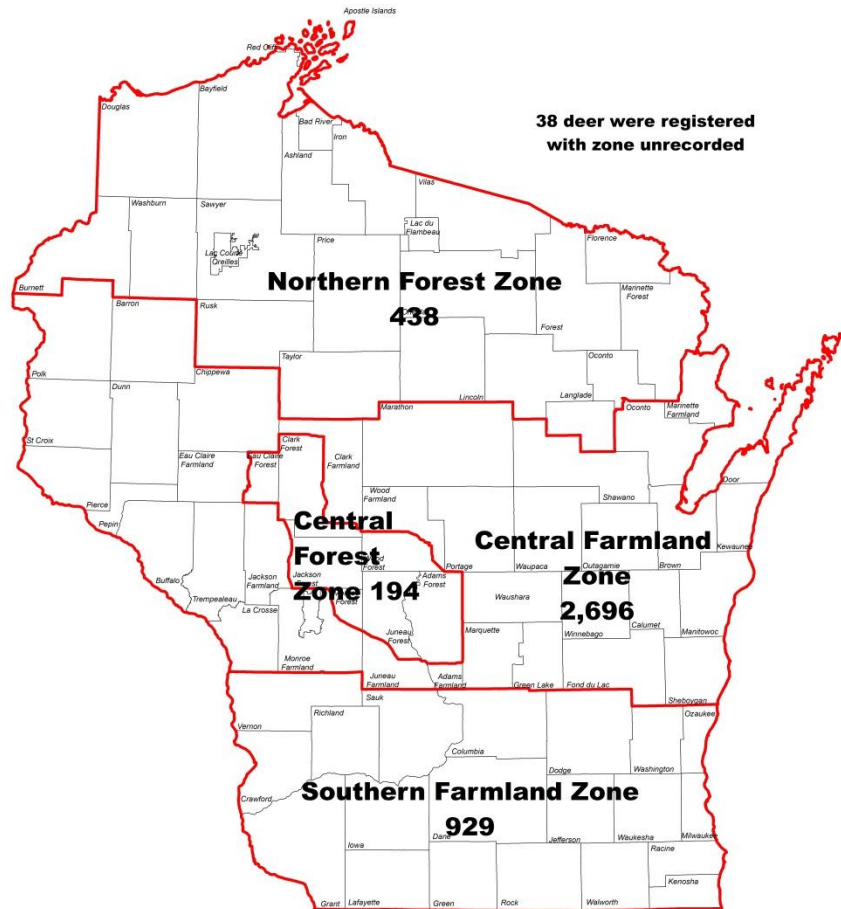


Figure 5. *The 2014 damage deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Table 10. Summary of the 2014 damage deer harvest by unit and deer management zone.

County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total
Barron	Central Farmland	1	27	0	28	Bayfield	Northern Forest	1	3	0	4
Brown	Central Farmland	13	102	0	115	Burnett	Northern Forest	0	26	4	30
Buffalo	Central Farmland	0	93	0	93	Florence	Northern Forest	0	55	1	56
Calumet	Central Farmland	0	8	0	8	Forest	Northern Forest	0	7	0	7
Chippewa	Central Farmland	0	14	0	14	Langlade	Northern Forest	0	22	1	23
Clark	Central Farmland	0	7	0	7	Lincoln	Northern Forest	0	38	0	38
Door	Central Farmland	0	34	1	35	Marinette	Northern Forest	0	58	1	59
Dunn	Central Farmland	3	24	0	27	Oneida	Northern Forest	3	7	0	10
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	0	7	0	7	Price	Northern Forest	1	44	0	45
Fond Du Lac	Central Farmland	1	20	1	22	Rusk	Northern Forest	0	6	0	6
Green Lake	Central Farmland	0	147	0	147	Sawyer	Northern Forest	1	23	0	24
Jackson	Central Farmland	0	109	1	110	Taylor	Northern Forest	0	58	0	58
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	0	8	0	8	Vilas	Northern Forest	0	27	0	27
La Crosse	Central Farmland	5	54	3	62	Washburn	Northern Forest	1	50	0	51
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1	38	0	39	Northern Forest Total		7	424	7	438
Marathon	Central Farmland	0	247	5	252	Columbia	Southern Farmland	0	167	1	168
Marinette	Central Farmland	0	165	1	166	Crawford	Southern Farmland	0	25	0	25
Marquette	Central Farmland	2	151	0	153	Dane	Southern Farmland	14	32	0	46
Monroe	Central Farmland	0	20	0	20	Dodge	Southern Farmland	0	20	0	20
Oconto	Central Farmland	0	47	1	48	Grant	Southern Farmland	1	64	0	65
Outagamie	Central Farmland	3	138	10	151	Green	Southern Farmland	0	1	0	1
Pepin	Central Farmland	0	6	0	6	Iowa	Southern Farmland	0	94	0	94
Pierce	Central Farmland	0	9	0	9	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	5	7	0	12
Polk	Central Farmland	4	142	0	146	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	0	5	0	5
Portage	Central Farmland	1	129	7	137	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	0	4	0	4
St. Croix	Central Farmland	1	51	0	52	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	9	10	1	20
Shawano	Central Farmland	1	299	10	310	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	0	15	0	15
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	1	5	0	6	Racine	Southern Farmland	1	0	0	1
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	1	122	0	123	Richland	Southern Farmland	2	83	0	85
Waupaca	Central Farmland	0	189	0	189	Rock	Southern Farmland	0	4	0	4
Waushara	Central Farmland	0	69	3	72	Sauk	Southern Farmland	0	66	3	69
Winnebago	Central Farmland	1	43	0	44	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2	159	0	161
Wood	Central Farmland	0	90	0	90	Walworth	Southern Farmland	0	21	0	21
Central Farmland Total		39	2614	43	2696	Washington	Southern Farmland	5	89	0	94
Adams	Central Forest	0	97	2	99	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	2	17	0	19
Clark	Central Forest	1	44	0	45	Southern Farmland Total		41	883	5	929
Eau Claire	Central Forest	1	0	0	1	Adams	Unknown	0	3	0	3
Jackson	Central Forest	0	3	0	3	Wood	Unknown	0	35	0	35
Juneau	Central Forest	0	8	0	8	Unknown Total		0	38	0	38
Monroe	Central Forest	0	20	1	21	Grand Total		85	4,129	58	4,272
Wood	Central Forest	0	17	0	17						
Central Forest Total		2	189	3	194						

Chippewa Deer Harvest Summary

The Lake Superior Chippewa Bands began a negotiated deer season with the State of Wisconsin in 1983. The total harvest for 2014 and past years is given in Table 11. The 2014 Chippewa deer harvest by deer management zone and unit are listed in Table 12.

Table 11. *Chippewa deer harvest summary, 1983-2014.*

Year	Antlered Kill	Antlerless Kill	Unknown Kill	Total Kill
1983	235	403	5	643
1984	213	447	28	688
1985	435	945	0	1,380
1986	615	1,530	0	2,145
1987	730	2,099	0	2,829
1988	902	2,468	0	3,370
1989	1,016	2,727	1	3,744
1990	1,101	2,739	2	3,842
1991	1,095	3,844	0	4,939
1992	690	1,850	0	2,540
1993	677	1,787	0	2,464
1994	1,163	2,469	5	3,637
1995	1,584	3,340	1	4,925
1996	1,100	2,224	23	3,347
1997	1,120	2,227	0	3,347
1998	1,529	2,435	0	3,964
1999	1,349	1,896	18	3,263
2000	1,351	1,630	0	2,981
2001	1,047	1,526	0	2,573
2002	861	1,044	0	1,905
2003	1,162	1,524	0	2,686
2004	954	1,068	0	2,022
2005	852	1,305	6	2,163
2006	956	1,354	2	2,312
2007	828	1,015	0	1,843
2008	695	900	0	1,595
2009	540	842	0	1,382
2010	646	847	0	1,493
2011	508	831	1	1,340
2012	666	943	0	1,609
2013	542	817	0	1,359
2014	423	702	0	1,125

Table 12. *Summary of the 2014 Chippewa harvest by deer management zone and unit.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Grand Total
Central Forest	Clark		1	0	1
Northern Forest	Ashland	4	1	0	5
Northern Forest	Barron	4	1	0	5
Northern Forest	Bayfield	67	76	0	143
Northern Forest	Burnett	91	119	0	210
Northern Forest	Chippewa	2	0	0	2
Northern Forest	Douglas	34	55	0	89
Northern Forest	Florence	1	11	0	12
Northern Forest	Forest	31	74	0	105
Northern Forest	Iron	4	13	0	17
Northern Forest	Langlade	12	12	0	24
Northern Forest	Lincoln	0	3	0	3
Northern Forest	Marathon	1	2	0	3
Northern Forest	Marinette	1	5	0	6
Northern Forest	Oneida	20	27	0	47
Northern Forest	Polk	2	3	0	5
Northern Forest	Price	12	20	0	32
Northern Forest	Rusk	3	4	0	7
Northern Forest	Sawyer	40	45	0	85
Northern Forest	St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Northern Forest	Taylor	2	0	0	2
Northern Forest	Vilas	66	204	0	270
Northern Forest	Washburn	25	26	0	51
Grand Total		423	702	0	1,125

2014 Deer Ages and Condition

By: Daniel J. Storm

Abstract

Harvest age-structure provides information on the dynamics of the deer herd. Yearling doe percentages are an indicator of herd recruitment, which generally were similar to 5-year and long-term means in Farmland regions. Due to zero-quota hunting seasons in Forest regions, sample sizes in those regions are too small to provide useful yearling doe percentage data. Yearling buck percentages were below 5-year and long-term means in all county groups except for the Western Farmland. The decrease in yearling buck percentages reflects reduced buck exploitation, likely due to poor hunting conditions across most of the state, and reduced over-winter survival of young-of-the-year. The percentages of yearling bucks with forked antlers were generally lower than 5-year and long-term averages in most county groupings, but samples tended to be small.

Introduction

Sampling age-composition of Wisconsin's deer herd using hunter-killed deer is an essential component of Wisconsin's deer population monitoring program. Age composition data by deer management unit (DMU) supports population modeling used to estimate DMU deer herd sizes and to set annual harvest quotas. Age samples also help when interpreting harvest changes.

Methods

Deer were aged using the molariform tooth wear and replacement method. Yearling antler development was recorded as "sub-legal" or short spikes (< 3" antler), legal spikes (≥ 3 " spikes), and forked bucks (forked antlers and larger). Trends in yearling buck percent, yearling doe percent and antler development were estimated by pooling DMUs (now counties) across groupings of adjacent counties. The 2014 data were compared to 5-year and long-term (1997 -2014) averages. County age samples for 1997-2013 were approximated from groupings of deer management units that included the county.

Results and Discussion

In 2014, field staff aged 16,193 deer (including animals sampled for CWD) during the opening weekend of the 9-day firearm season. The number of deer aged in 2014 was 17% fewer than the number of deer aged in 2013 ($n = 19,596$). The number of bucks aged decreased by 11% (Figure 6), while the number of does aged decreased by 28%, reflecting the limited antlerless harvest in forest zone units (Figure 7).

Buck ages

Yearling bucks comprised between 45-49% of the total buck harvest in the forest zone county groups during 2014, below both 5-year and long-term means (Table 13). The lower-than-average yearling percentages may reflect decreased deer recruitment, following the harshest winter on record. Yearling buck percents in the Northern Forest show significant annual variation, most likely due to the variable recruitment that occurs there. Nevertheless, variation in hunter pressure and weather conditions in this region during the 9-day firearm season could cause similar variation in buck harvest rates.

In farmland zone county groups, yearling buck percentages were generally below average; in 3 of the 5 county groups, yearling buck percentages were as low or lower than in any year since 1997, (Table 13). Only in the Southeastern Farmland county group was the yearling buck percentage higher than the 5-year mean. In general, there has been a long-term decline in yearling buck percentages. In the Farmlands, reduced yearling buck percents could be due to increased deer populations relative to hunter numbers, which would reduce buck harvest rates. Reduced recruitment could also contribute to lower yearling buck percentages. Year doe percentages have generally declined in the Farmlands as well (discussed below), supporting the notion that recruitment could be declining. However, yearling buck percentages have declined at a faster rate than yearling doe percentages, suggesting that reduced exploitation is at least partially driving this trend.

Table 13. *Regional trends in percent yearling bucks in the buck harvest, 2010-2014.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	Yearling Buck Percentages					Percent 2014 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Northwest Forest	49	53	40	53	50	55	45	-8
Northcentral Forest	52	52	45	59	56	53	49	-7
Northeast Forest	56	61	52	65	64	51	48	-15
Central Forest	54	55	46	55	60	58	49	-8
Central Farmland	53	59	51	56	56	56	47	-12
Lake Michigan Farmland	56	63	54	58	56	60	54	-5
Western Farmland	52	57	50	52	56	53	48	-8
Southeastern Farmland	50	54	44	47	50	55	56	11
Southwestern Farmland	39	48	35	38	42	42	38	-3

*1997-2014

Doe ages

Yearling doe percentage data was inadequate to make inferences in the forest zone counties, due to antlerless quotas of 0 there.

While yearling doe percentages in farmland zone county groups have declined over time, 2014 values were near the 5-year average (Table 14), suggesting that the harsh 2013-2014 winter had minimal impact on over-winter survival of juvenile deer in the farmland. Long-term decreases in yearling doe percentages across the farmland regions may be attributed to decreased reproduction and survival to one year of age resulting from a legacy of past high deer populations and over-browsed woodlands and reduced nutrition. Predator populations may play a role in these changes; however, our research using collared deer shows that predation increases when deer are in poor nutritional condition.

Table 14. *Regional trends in percent yearling does in the doe harvest, 2010-2014.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	Yearling Doe Percentages					Percent 2014 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Northwest Forest†	30	28	25	33	27	24	40	33
Northcentral Forest†	25	27	30	29	27	25	13	-46
Northeast Forest†	27	27	24	37	32	19	21	-20
Central Forest†	27	28	26	26	29	29	25	-8
Central Farmland	32	35	34	30	33	32	30	-5
Lake Michigan Farmland	36	39	36	36	37	38	35	-3
Western Farmland	33	35	32	38	32	30	33	1
Southeastern Farmland	35	36	30	36	34	39	34	-2
Southwestern Farmland	28	33	28	27	30	27	28	-1

*1997-2014

†Sample size inadequate to interpret

Antler development

Estimates of the percentage of bucks with forked antlers in 2014 were below 5-year means (except in the Northcentral Forest and Southwest Farmland county groups). The largest deviation occurred in the Northwest Forest County Group, which was 21% below the 5-year mean, and lower still than the long-term mean. Interestingly, percentage of fork bucks in other Forest Zone county groups were similar or only slightly below 5-year averages. The 2013-2014 winter, while harsh across the state, was especially so in the northwest part of the state. The resulting poorer antler development occurred because deer were in poorer nutritional condition following the extended winter and needed to allocate more nutritional resources to recovery.

Notable differences in antler development continue to occur between heavily forested and farmland regions, and is likely explained by habitat productivity, winter weather, and deer herd densities relative to biological carrying capacity. Less severe winter conditions and distribution of high quality food resources (e.g., agricultural crops) throughout the farmland regions allow for increased carrying capacity and buffer deer herds against winter impacts on spring/summer body conditions and yearling antler development.

Table 15. *Trends in antler development of yearling bucks, 2010-2014.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	% of Yearling Bucks with Forked Antlers					Percent 2014 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Northwest Forest	50	59	51	56	63	41	40	-21
Northcentral Forest	53	57	50	53	61	49	53	0
Northeast Forest	60	62	62	55	61	63	58	-3
Central Forest	66	61	63	68	71	64	63	-4
Central Farmland	85	87	88	83	90	82	80	-5
Lake Michigan Farmland	90	91	91	90	93	88	89	-2
Western Farmland	88	88	91	88	92	84	87	-1
Southeastern Farmland	92	94	94	92	96	89	90	-2
Southwestern Farmland	93	94	94	90	96	90	96	3

*1997-2014

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Robert Rolley and Keith McCaffery for reviewing this report and to DNR personnel and volunteers for collecting deer age and antler data.

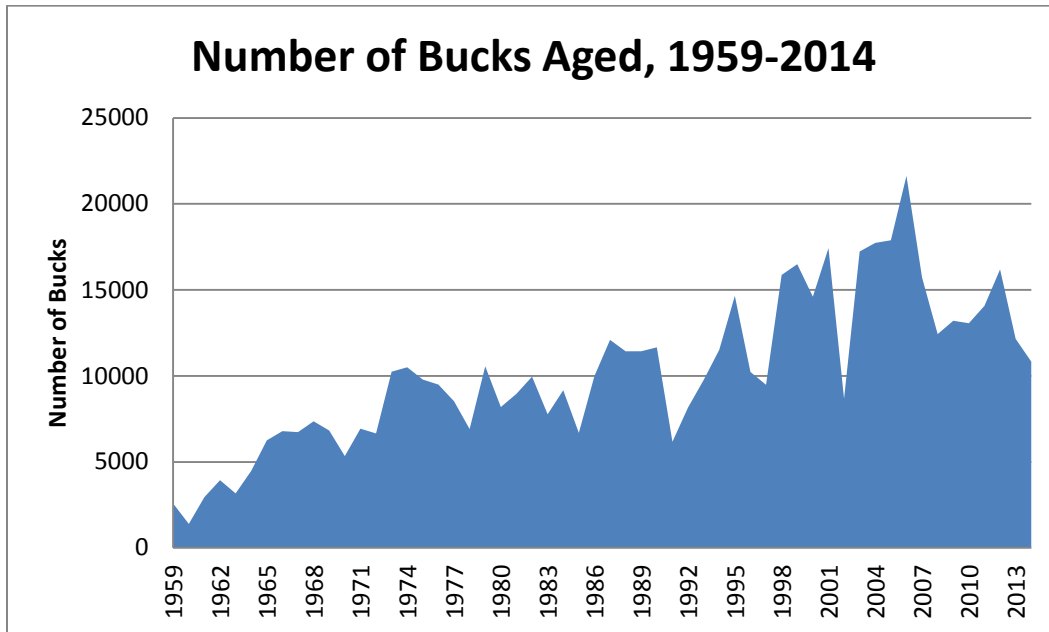


Figure 6. *The number of adult bucks aged, 1959–2014.*

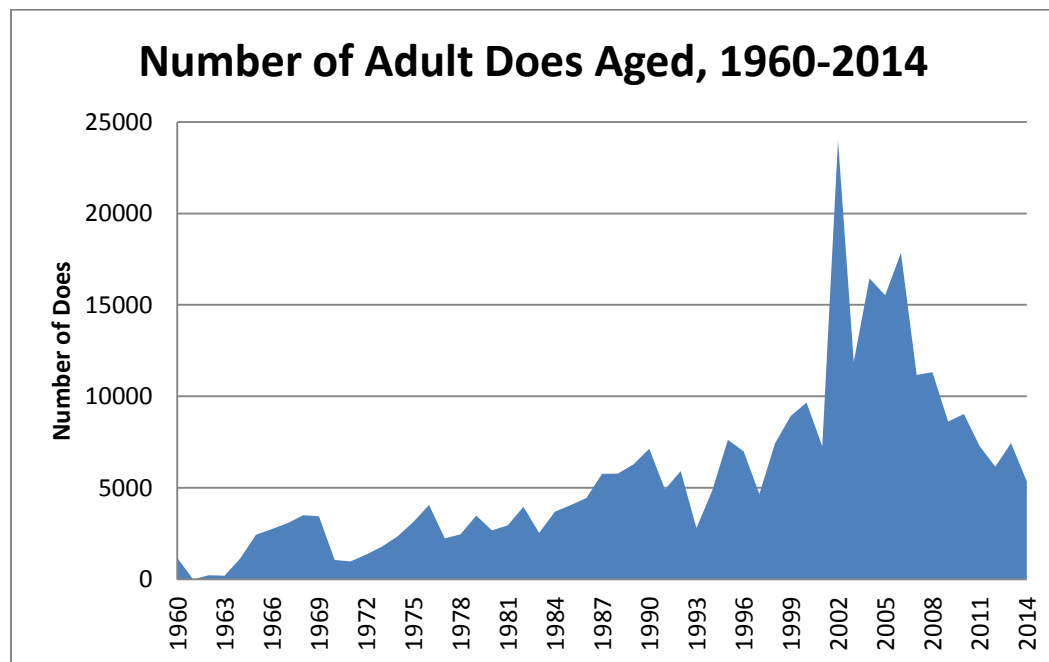


Figure 7. *The number of adult does aged, 1960–2014.*

Hunting Accident Report

By Brenda Von Rueden
Bureau of Law Enforcement

2014 Archery Season, 13 September - 4 January
2014 Crossbow Season, 13 September - 4 January
2014 Youth Deer Season, 11 - 12 October
2014 9-Day Gun Deer Season, 22 - 30 November
2014 Muzzleloader Deer Season, 1 - 10 December
2014 December Antlerless Only Gun Deer Season, 11 - 14 December
2014 Holiday Hunt Deer Season 24 December - 1 January

Table 16. *The 9-day gun deer season accident summary by DNR region.*

DNR Region	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Total
Central Farmland	0	5	5
Central Forest	0	0	0
Northern Forest	0	0	0
Southern Farmland	0	1	1
Total	0	6	6

Table 17. *The vertical bow, crossbow, October and December antlerless only, muzzleloader, and holiday hunt deer seasons accident summary by DNR region.*

DNR Region	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Total
Central Farmland	0	2	2
Central Forest	0	0	0
Northern Forest	0	0	0
Southern Farmland	0	0	0
Total	0	2	2

4 accidents (50%) were a result of hunters shooting themselves.

2 accidents (25%) involved victim and shooter being members of the same hunting party.

2 accidents occurred outside the 9-day gun deer season.

2014 Hunting Accident Synopsis

Type of Accident

SI = Self Inflicted Injury

SP = Shooter and Victim in Same Party

M = Male

F = Female

Table 18. Summary of the 2014 deer hunter accidents by incident.

#	Date/Time	Location	Injury Description	Fatal	Self Inflicted (SI) or Same Party (SP)	Shooter Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Victim Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Type of Firearm
1	10/11/2014 unknown am/pm	Waupaca Private	Bullet penetrated left foot and traveled into big toe. Lacerated the top of the foot with damage to other toes.	No	SP - Same Party	13yr M Yes	17yr M Unknown	20 Gauge Break/Hinge Shotgun
Synopsis:	The shooter was hunting deer. The shooter was standing along a corn field while other hunters were driving deer towards shooter. Victim yelled "deer" and the deer ran between the shooter and the victim, shooter took one shot hitting the victim on the inside of the left foot.							
2	11/01/2014 Unknown am/pm	Trempealeau Private	Single gunshot wound to the head, above the right eye	No	Neither	55yr M Yes	55yr M Yes	.22 Caliber Semi- Automatic Rifle
Synopsis:	Shooter was hunting squirrels on same private property that victim was crossbow hunting. Neither party knew the other was there. The shooter shot at what he believed was a squirrel climbing up the base of a tree, then saw the victim fall. The shooter and victim were approximately 183 feet apart.							
3	11/26/2014 11:15am	Portage Private	One round striking the victim in right foot	No	Neither	53yr M Yes	41yr M Yes	30.06 Caliber Slide/Pump Rifle
Synopsis:	Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter was approximately 467 yards from the victims elevated tower stand. Shooter fired multiple rounds at deer with one round striking the tower stand, passing through the wall, and striking the victim in the right foot.							
4	11/27/2014 09:15am	LaCrosse Private	Bullet wound/graze to upper right thigh	No	SI - Self Inflicted	65yr M No	Same as Shooter	.30-30 Caliber Lever Rifle
Synopsis:	Shooter was hunting deer from a treestand. The shooter was lowering his loaded rifle which had a rope tied around the barrel causing the muzzle to be pointed upwards. While lowering the rifle the firearm discharged hitting the shooter/victim in the upper right thigh							
5	11/29/2014 unknown am/pm	Manitowoc Private	Gunshot wound to pelvic area	No	SP - Same Party	16yr M Yes	24yr M Yes	12 Gauge Semi- Automatic Shotgun
Synopsis:	Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter and victim walked out to their hunting area together. Victim then walked to his tree stand located north of an open cornfield in a wooded area. Shooter did a short deer drive and then sat on the southern edge of the cornfield on the ground. Shooter saw doe walk out and shot once. Doe started to run, shooter shot two more times, striking victim who was walking out from his treestand in thick wooded area.							

Table 18. *Summary of the 2014 deer hunter accidents by incident.*

#	Date/Time	Location	Injury Description	Fatal	Self Inflicted (SI) or Same Party (SP)	Shooter Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Victim Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Type of Firearm
6	11/29/2014 11:40am	Eau Claire Private	Bullet wound to left foot near little toe	No	SI - Self Inflicted	63yr M No	Same as Shooter	30-06 Caliber Semi-Automatic Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter seen deer while in his blind and took the safety off. After deer was gone, shooter decided to exit the blind to stretch. Firearm was pointed towards shooters feet when shooter entered the blind the firearm discharged.								
7	12/08/2014 unknown	Buffalo Private	Damage to left inside wrist area	No	SI - Self Inflicted	48yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	Unknown Caliber Muzzleloader Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter shot once at deer while standing near the driver's door of his pick-up. The muzzleloader blew apart into multiple pieces. Driver window was shattered. Parts of the muzzleloader were scattered causing damage to left inside wrist area.								
8	12/09/2014 10:00pm	Rock Private	Bullet graze to left shin	No	SI - Self Inflicted	27yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	.22 Caliber Bolt Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting raccoon. Shooter pulled over vehicle to let his dog out on the raccoon. Shooter said he loaded single shot .22 in his right hand and was about to exit the truck when the firearm discharged.								

Archery Harvest

Wisconsin archers killed 54,810 deer the archery deer seasons (Table 20).

Table 19. *The 2014 archery deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	16,641	15,885	352	32,878
Central Forest	1,426	595	28	2,049
Northern Forest	4,520	612	28	5,160
Southern Farmland	7,846	6,597	280	14,723
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	30,433	23,689	688	54,810

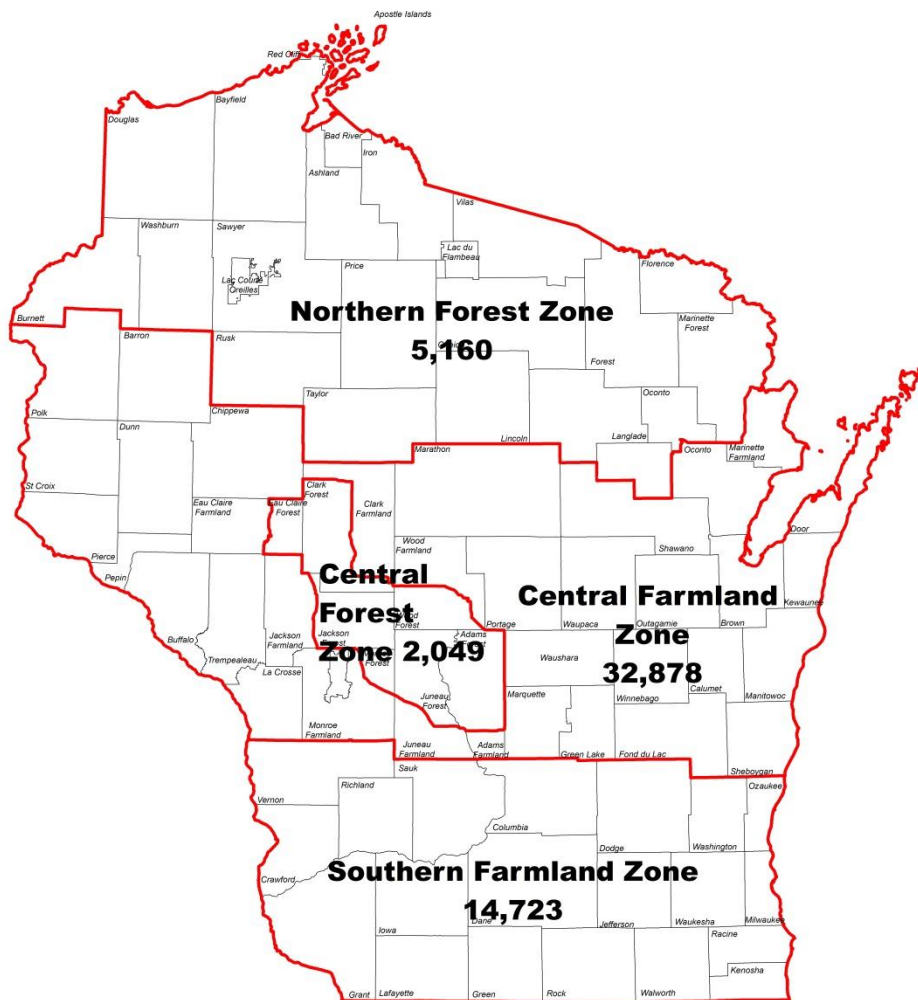


Figure 8. *The 2014 archery deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Table 20. Summary of the 2014 Archery deer harvest by zone and unit.

County	Deer Management Zone	Archery Antlered	Archery Antlerless	Archery Unks	Archery Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Archery Antlered	Archery Antlerless	Archery Unks	Archery Total
Adams	Central Farmland	101	110	4	215	Ashland	Northern Forest	102	13	2	117
Barron	Central Farmland	474	452	9	935	Bad River	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	363	298	0	661	Bayfield	Northern Forest	253	20	3	276
Buffalo	Central Farmland	923	770	29	1,722	Burnett	Northern Forest	305	28	2	335
Calumet	Central Farmland	167	105	1	273	Douglas	Northern Forest	290	50	6	346
Chippewa	Central Farmland	538	632	10	1,180	Florence	Northern Forest	104	9	0	113
Clark	Central Farmland	347	432	3	782	Forest	Northern Forest	142	16	3	161
Door	Central Farmland	263	240	7	510	Iron	Northern Forest	26	1	0	27
Dunn	Central Farmland	586	570	14	1,170	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	306	359	4	669	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	525	455	18	998	Langlade	Northern Forest	247	34	1	282
Green Lake	Central Farmland	352	336	6	694	Lincoln	Northern Forest	338	31	0	369
Jackson	Central Farmland	466	478	7	951	Marinette	Northern Forest	384	107	1	492
Juneau	Central Farmland	212	190	3	405	Menominee	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	226	151	3	380	Oconto	Northern Forest	169	45	0	214
La Crosse	Central Farmland	415	429	6	850	Oneida	Northern Forest	377	42	0	419
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	430	296	6	732	Price	Northern Forest	293	22	1	316
Marathon	Central Farmland	996	1,040	19	2,055	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Marinette	Central Farmland	228	288	8	524	Rusk	Northern Forest	346	33	2	381
Marquette	Central Farmland	575	517	8	1,100	Sawyer	Northern Forest	238	16	2	256
MCCoy	Central Farmland	50	59	0	109	Taylor	Northern Forest	439	79	2	520
Monroe	Central Farmland	521	468	2	991	Vilas	Northern Forest	269	44	2	315
Oconto	Central Farmland	445	466	2	913	Washburn	Northern Forest	198	22	1	221
Outagamie	Central Farmland	571	504	7	1,082	Northern Forest Total		4,520	612	28	5,160
Pepin	Central Farmland	190	226	6	422	Columbia	Southern Farmland	758	524	36	1,318
Pierce	Central Farmland	415	442	4	861	Crawford	Southern Farmland	364	302	0	666
Polk	Central Farmland	625	589	7	1,221	Dane	Southern Farmland	549	437	30	1,016
Portage	Central Farmland	558	528	7	1,093	Dodge	Southern Farmland	560	523	26	1,109
St Croix	Central Farmland	441	509	8	958	Grant	Southern Farmland	581	418	16	1,015
Shawano	Central Farmland	978	903	41	1,922	Green	Southern Farmland	216	172	4	392
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	328	296	52	676	Iowa	Southern Farmland	536	419	11	966
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	698	632	8	1,338	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	324	265	16	605
Waupaca	Central Farmland	1,107	971	9	2,087	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	84	80	5	169
Waushara	Central Farmland	586	514	16	1,116	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	198	144	24	366
Winnebago	Central Farmland	324	258	3	585	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	56	53	1	110
Wood	Central Farmland	311	372	15	698	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	174	206	26	406
Central Farmland Total		16,641	15,885	352	32,878	Racine	Southern Farmland	115	81	5	201
Adams	Central Forest	359	158	9	526	Richland	Southern Farmland	548	443	8	999
Clark	Central Forest	321	220	0	541	Rock	Southern Farmland	253	201	5	459
Eau Claire	Central Forest	107	93	6	206	Sauk	Southern Farmland	805	629	9	1,443
Jackson	Central Forest	210	29	2	241	Vernon	Southern Farmland	630	593	10	1,233
Juneau	Central Forest	174	40	1	215	Walworth	Southern Farmland	179	168	4	351
Monroe	Central Forest	89	28	0	117	Washington	Southern Farmland	451	506	22	979
Wood	Central Forest	166	27	10	203	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	465	433	22	920
Central Forest Total		1,426	595	28	2,049	Southern Farmland Total		7,846	6,597	280	14,723
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
						Unknown Total		0	0	0	0
						Grand Total		30,433	23,689	688	54,810

Crossbow Harvest

Wisconsin crossbow hunters killed 26,891 deer during the crossbow deer seasons (Table 22).

Table 21. *The 2014 crossbow deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	8,431	7,982	123	16,536
Central Forest	813	408	12	1,233
Northern Forest	3,952	467	27	4,446
Southern Farmland	2,572	2,031	73	4,676
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	15,768	10,888	235	26,891

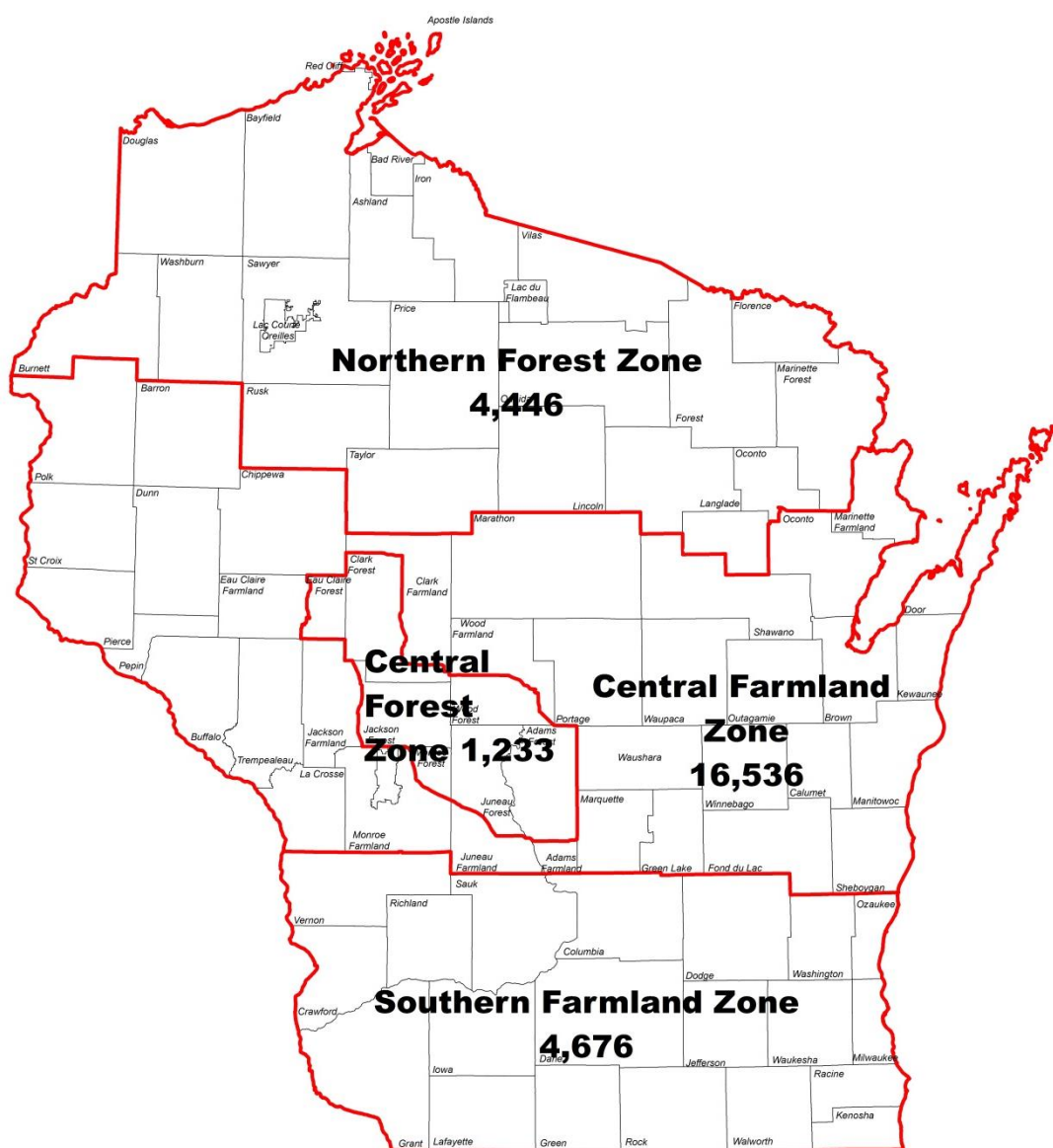
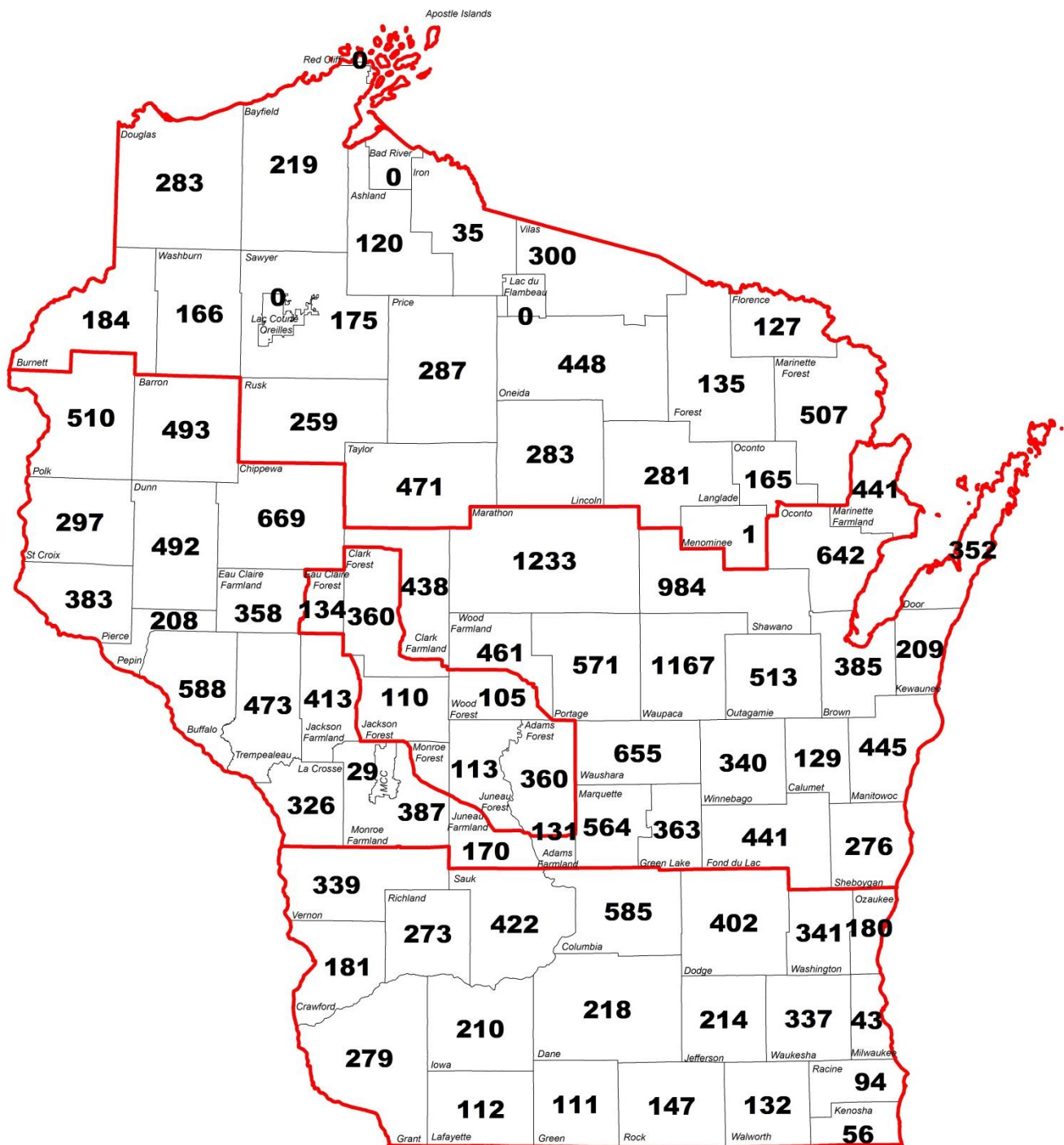


Figure 10. *The 2014 crossbow deer harvest by deer management zone.*



Total Archery Harvest = 26,891

Figure 11. The 2014 crossbow harvest by deer management zone and unit.

Table 22. Summary of the 2014 Crossbow deer harvest by zone and unit.

County	Deer Management Zone	Xbow Antlered	Xbow Antlerless	Xbow Unks	Xbow Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Xbow Antlered	Xbow Antlerless	Xbow Unks	Xbow Total
Adams	Central Farmland	60	70	1	131	Ashland	Northern Forest	113	6	1	120
Barron	Central Farmland	270	217	6	493	Bad River	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	190	195	0	385	Bayfield	Northern Forest	204	12	3	219
Buffalo	Central Farmland	309	273	6	588	Burnett	Northern Forest	172	12	0	184
Calumet	Central Farmland	80	45	4	129	Douglas	Northern Forest	234	43	6	283
Chippewa	Central Farmland	307	355	7	669	Florence	Northern Forest	124	3	0	127
Clark	Central Farmland	207	228	3	438	Forest	Northern Forest	121	13	1	135
Door	Central Farmland	170	179	3	352	Iron	Northern Forest	28	6	1	35
Dunn	Central Farmland	235	255	2	492	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	175	181	2	358	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	238	201	2	441	Langlade	Northern Forest	262	19	0	281
Green Lake	Central Farmland	216	145	2	363	Lincoln	Northern Forest	262	20	1	283
Jackson	Central Farmland	211	199	3	413	Marinette	Northern Forest	369	135	3	507
Juneau	Central Farmland	82	86	2	170	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	127	82	0	209	Oconto	Northern Forest	139	26	0	165
La Crosse	Central Farmland	166	160	0	326	Oneida	Northern Forest	403	44	1	448
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	237	207	1	445	Price	Northern Forest	265	21	1	287
Marathon	Central Farmland	579	645	9	1,233	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Marinette	Central Farmland	212	228	1	441	Rusk	Northern Forest	241	16	2	259
Marquette	Central Farmland	286	275	3	564	Sawyer	Northern Forest	163	11	1	175
MCCoy	Central Farmland	13	16	0	29	Taylor	Northern Forest	424	43	4	471
Monroe	Central Farmland	211	175	1	387	Vilas	Northern Forest	275	24	1	300
Oconto	Central Farmland	324	317	1	642	Washburn	Northern Forest	152	13	1	166
Outagamie	Central Farmland	251	260	2	513	Northern Forest Total		3,952	467	27	4,446
Pepin	Central Farmland	95	111	2	208	Columbia	Southern Farmland	340	237	8	585
Pierce	Central Farmland	187	195	1	383	Crawford	Southern Farmland	107	72	2	181
Polk	Central Farmland	250	258	2	510	Dane	Southern Farmland	117	95	6	218
Portage	Central Farmland	301	269	1	571	Dodge	Southern Farmland	225	171	6	402
St Croix	Central Farmland	154	142	1	297	Grant	Southern Farmland	174	105	0	279
Shawano	Central Farmland	516	448	20	984	Green	Southern Farmland	61	46	4	111
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	142	127	7	276	Iowa	Southern Farmland	129	81	0	210
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	264	206	3	473	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	118	91	5	214
Waupaca	Central Farmland	616	544	7	1,167	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	30	26	0	56
Waushara	Central Farmland	354	294	7	655	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	63	40	9	112
Winnebago	Central Farmland	184	155	1	340	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	17	24	2	43
Wood	Central Farmland	212	239	10	461	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	82	90	8	180
Central Farmland Total		8,431	7,982	123	16,536	Racine	Southern Farmland	48	43	3	94
Adams	Central Forest	218	138	4	360	Richland	Southern Farmland	150	120	3	273
Clark	Central Forest	202	157	1	360	Rock	Southern Farmland	87	60	0	147
Eau Claire	Central Forest	75	56	3	134	Sauk	Southern Farmland	249	167	6	422
Jackson	Central Forest	100	10	0	110	Vernon	Southern Farmland	175	163	1	339
Juneau	Central Forest	93	19	1	113	Walworth	Southern Farmland	70	60	2	132
Monroe	Central Forest	41	10	0	51	Washington	Southern Farmland	153	184	4	341
Wood	Central Forest	84	18	3	105	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	177	156	4	337
Central Forest Total		813	408	12	1,233	Southern Farmland Total		2,572	2,031	73	4,676
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
								Unknown Total	0	0	0
						Grand Total		15,768	10,888	235	26,891

WISCONSIN DEER HARVEST AND HUNTERS 1966-2014

Year	<u>Gun Season</u>				<u>Archery Season</u>				<u>Crossbow Season</u>			
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters ¹	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters ²
1966	67,362	42,700	110,062	432,111	1,357	4,629	5,986	85,114				
1967	71,032	57,295	128,527	470,782	1,714	5,878	7,592	101,573				
1968	62,521	57,465	119,986	503,190	1,924	5,010	6,934	114,975				
1969	52,655	45,353	98,008	506,526	1,576	4,411	5,987	106,669				
1970	50,308	22,536	72,844	501,799	1,775	4,745	6,520	101,573				
1971	48,994	21,841	70,835	509,447	1,696	4,826	6,522	100,206				
1972	49,416	25,411	74,827	517,724	1,956	5,131	7,087	98,720				
1973	57,364	24,741	82,105	514,626	2,594	5,862	8,456	105,875				
1974	67,313	33,092	100,405	556,815	3,390	9,124	12,514	119,960				
1975	73,373	44,005	117,378	582,113	4,439	9,149	13,588	133,775				
1976	69,510	52,999	122,509	589,590	4,775	8,861	13,636	133,318				
1977	82,762	49,148	131,910	617,823	5,993	10,797	16,790	146,760				
1978	87,397	63,448	150,845	644,594	6,472	11,641	18,113	157,838				
1979	76,550	49,020	125,570	617,109	6,203	9,815	16,018	144,511				
1980	81,041	58,583	139,624	618,333	8,950	12,004	20,954	155,386				
1981	99,034	67,639	166,673	629,034	11,867	17,216	29,083	173,874				
1982	97,534	85,181	182,715	637,320	12,854	17,996	30,850	189,524				
1983	96,628	100,672	197,600	649,972	14,208	18,668	32,876	194,367				
1984	117,197	138,726	255,726	657,969	17,049	21,842	38,891	205,132				
1985	112,701	161,601	274,302	670,329	19,396	21,348	40,744	215,900				
1986	117,886	140,882	259,240	662,771	19,126	21,256	40,490	216,472				
1987	116,881	133,393	250,530	660,400	21,278	21,253	42,651	208,675				
1988	121,536	141,888	263,424	653,790	22,213	20,180	42,393	210,518				
1989	139,651	170,282	310,192	661,713	25,249	20,994	46,394	210,912				
1990	140,726	209,005	350,040	699,275	26,263	22,860	49,291	216,981				
1991	120,009	232,330	352,520	674,422	29,739	37,110	67,097	216,559				
1992	111,476	177,245	288,820	666,570	29,992	30,324	60,478	220,872				
1993	116,507	100,977	217,584	652,491	30,661	22,274	53,008	224,008				
1994	135,574	171,945	307,629	670,776	36,772	29,419	66,254	234,077				
1995	171,891	225,846	398,002	684,944	39,379	29,790	69,269	244,262				
1996	138,622	250,011	388,791	677,072	33,625	39,224	72,941	235,780				
1997	121,050	171,296	292,513	671,706	36,812	30,264	67,115	237,991				
1998	151,575	180,601	332,254	668,958	42,010	33,251	75,301	241,391				
1999	159,296	242,908	402,204	690,194	45,562	46,641	92,203	252,322				
2000	171,753	356,741	528,494	694,712	40,579	46,220	86,799	258,002				
2001	141,942	219,322	361,264	688,540	40,867	42,217	83,120	260,239				
2002	126,470	191,418	317,888	618,945	29,322	24,831	54,133	227,124				
2003	147,436	240,908	388,344	644,818	45,498	50,109	95,607	247,211				
2004	133,223	280,571	413,794	649,955	33,635	69,937	103,572	252,602				
2005	147,622	239,688	387,310	641,771	35,935	42,515	78,450	247,309				
2006	137,278	256,028	393,306	644,906	40,081	73,837	113,918	258,394				
2007	133,131	269,432	402,563	641,432	38,011	77,999	116,010	258,854				
2008	103,845	248,756	352,601	643,266	34,662	64,622	99,284	266,435				
2009	92,754	149,108	241,862	638,842	41,402	45,839	87,241	261,964				
2010	106,263	146,775	253,038	622,542	42,115	41,718	83,833	254,014				
2011	106,396	151,115	257,511	622,860	44,443	45,757	90,200	255,426				
2012	119,469	154,578	274,047	634,821	45,988	48,279	94,267	263,860				
2013	102,221	152,782	255,003	634,655	41,517	46,111	87,628	266,380				
2014 ^a	97,196	125,392	222,588	609,779	30,433	24,377	54,810	214,213	15,768	11,123	26,891	108,765

^a Numbers are preliminary

¹ Includes archery, conservation patron, and crossbow authorities that purchased archery upgrade

² Includes crossbow, conservation patron, and archery authorities that purchased crossbow upgrade

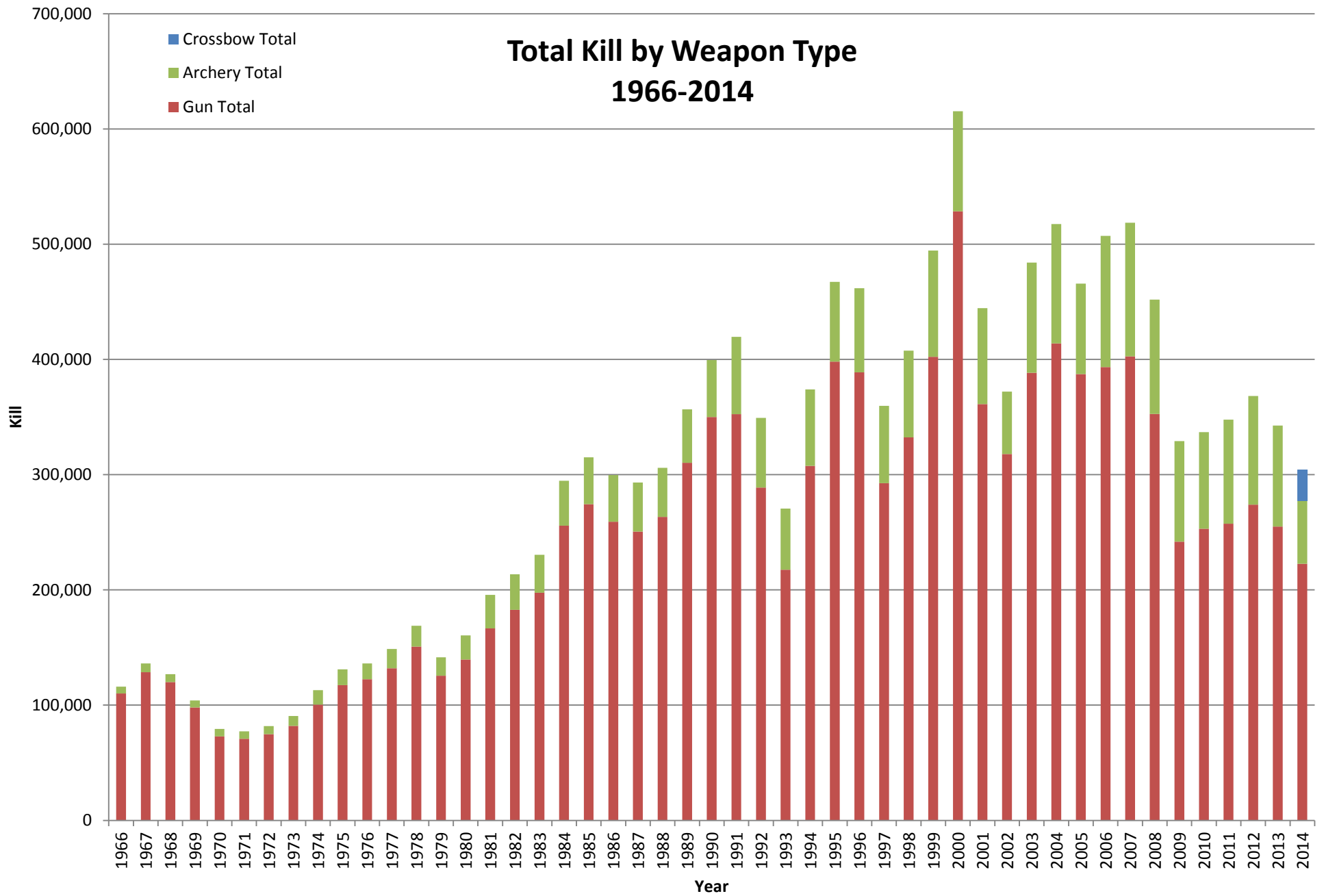


Figure 12. *Total deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2014.*

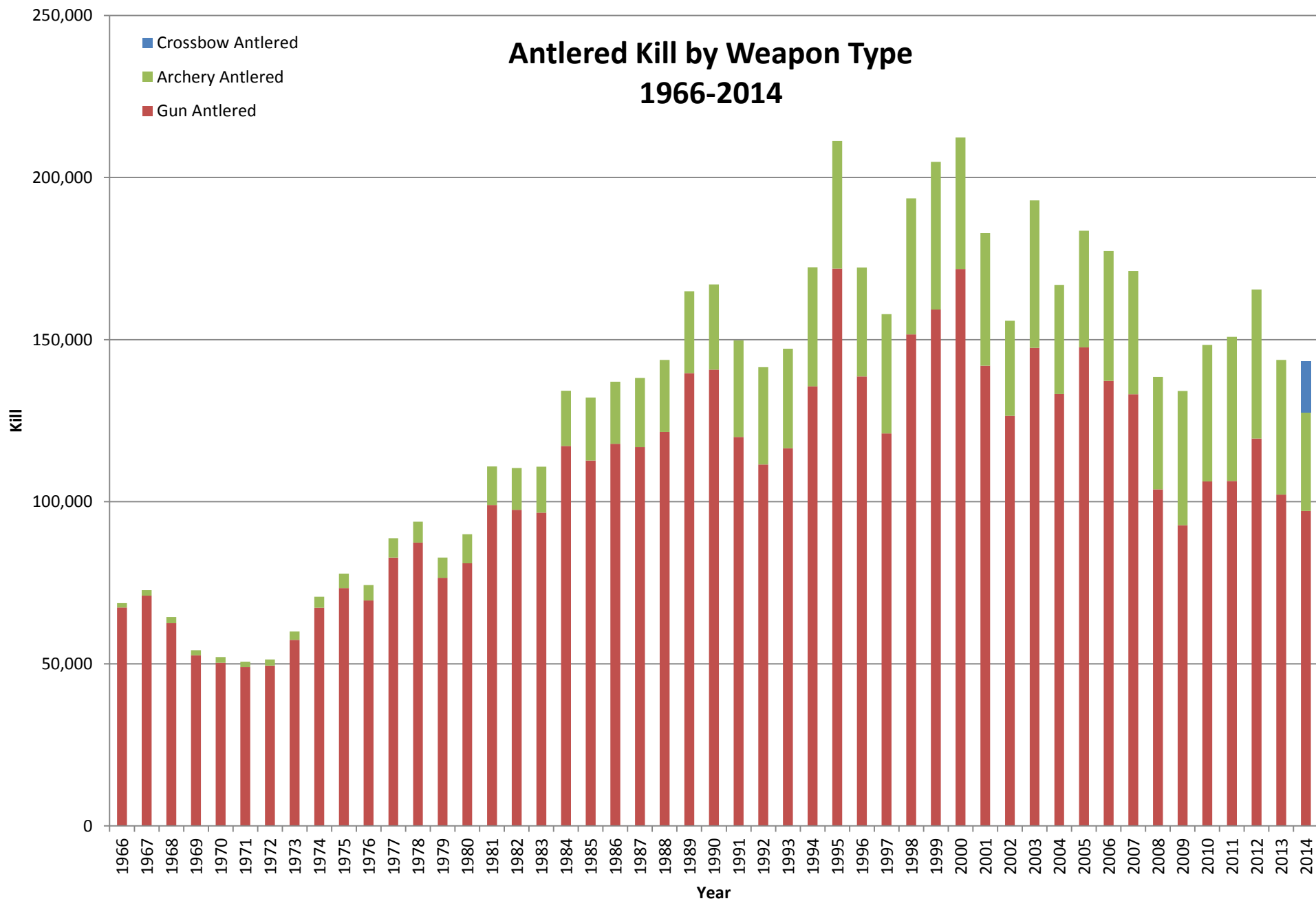


Figure 13. Antlered deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2014.

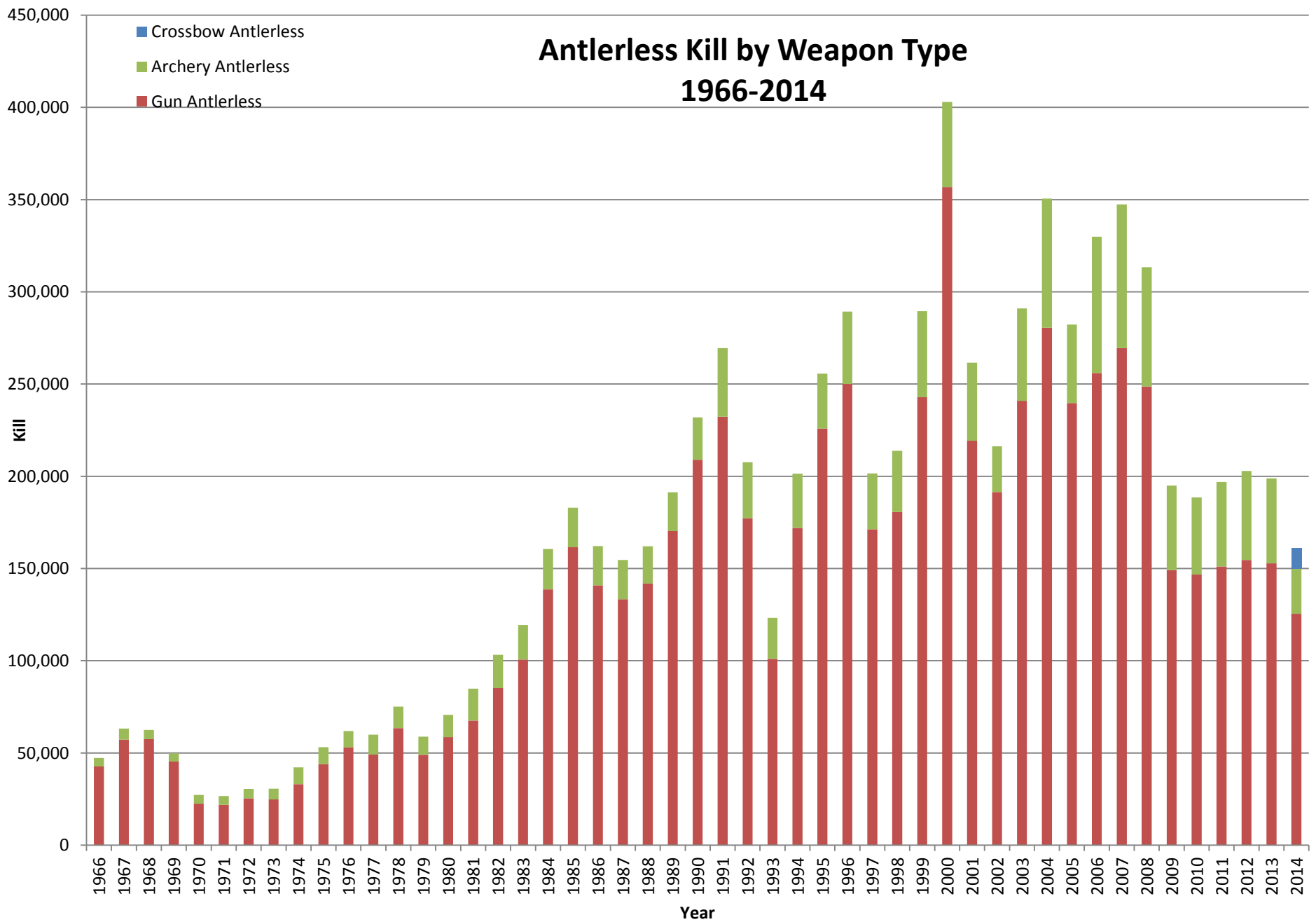


Figure 14. Antlerless deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2014.

Wisconsin Black Bear Harvest Report 2014

By Brian Dhuey, Dave MacFarland and Brad Koele

Abstract

Wisconsin bear hunters killed 4,526 black bears during the 2014 season. This was 15% higher than the 2013 kill of 3,952 bears. The 2014 kill was comprised of 50% males, 49% females, and 1% unknowns. The three leading counties of kill were Bayfield, Price, and Rusk.

Background

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa hunters to obtain a bear harvest permit to kill a bear. The state is divided into four Bear Management Zones (BMZ, Fig. 1), and hunters are required to apply for a permit within one of those zones. Kill permits are distributed through a preference point system giving unsuccessful applicants who applied, but did not receive a permit in previous years, the first chance to receive a kill permit the following year. Each kill permit allows the taking of one adult bear not accompanied by a cub or cubs in the specified zone. A permit to pursue bear is available to all unsuccessful harvest permit applicants who request it; however this permit does not allow the killing of a bear.

Wisconsin's bear season has opened on the first Wednesday after Labor Day since the 2000 season. The 2014 bear season ran from 9 September through 13 October (35 days). In the northern 1/3rd of the state (BMZ A, B and D), hunting with the use of dogs was allowed 9 September- 6 October while the use of bait was allowed during 16 September – 13 October. Hunters in the southern 2/3^{ds} of the state (BMZ C) could hunt the entire 35-day season with the use of bait and all methods not utilizing dogs.

Methods

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa bear hunters to register all bear at a designated WDNR registration station. An upper first premolar is collected at the time of registration for age analysis. Data on bear harvested by Chippewa tribal members on ceded lands were obtained from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). All kill data is entered into the DNR-centralized computer system by district personnel and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

A total of 108,271 people applied for a record 10,340 black bear harvest permits in 2014. The number of applicants increased by 1.6% and the number of permits increased 20.8% between 2013 and 2014 (Tables 1 and 10). A total of 10,340 permits were offered to hunters prior to the season. A statewide tetracycline mark-recapture study in 2006 and 2011 resulted in an increased population estimate from previous population estimates for the state. While bear numbers have dropped in parts of the state, the bear population has not declined in response to management actions taken in the Northwest area of the state (Zone D). Quota and permits have remained high in these areas.

During the 2014 season, 10,340 hunters killed 4,526 black bears (43.8% success rate), compared to 3,952 taken in 2013. Males comprised 49.8% (2,255), females 48.8% (2,210) of the harvest (Table 2, Fig. 2). The sex was not reported for 61 (1.3%) of the bears killed.

The Northern Region had the highest bear kill (3,590) followed by West Central (526), and Northeast (410) Regions (Table 2). The most bears were shot in Zone D (1,444) followed by Zones A (1,315), C (1,024), and B (738) (Table 3 and Figure 1). The five leading counties of kill were Bayfield (445), Price (321), Rusk (307), Sawyer (291) and Douglas (279) (Table 4, Fig. 3). Black bear kill by game management unit can be found in Table 5 and Figure 4. This year's harvest was the third highest in the history of the state.

The number of bear taken over bait alone (3,395; Table 6) was greater than the number shot over dogs (995; includes bear shot over dogs and bait). Sixty-nine bear were taken without the use of dogs or bait. Gun hunters took a total of 3,776 bear, while archers killed 695; 16 bear were killed with unreported weapon type (Table 6). Table 7 and Figure 5 summarize the historical Wisconsin black bear kill from 1957 through 2014.

Chippewa hunters killed 39 bear in 2014 (Tables 8 and 9); this was more than the 35 killed in 2013. More information on the Chippewa bear kill can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

A total of 832 black bear complaints were filed from January-December 2014. This was slightly more than the number of complaints (800) filed in 2013. As a result, 434 bear were captured and relocated from problem areas. This was less than the 487 that were moved in 2013.

Four nuisance bear shooting permits and twenty-five agricultural damage bear shooting permits were issued in eleven different counties during the spring, summer, and fall of 2014. One hundred sixteen kill tags were issued to these permit holders, tag numbers ranged from 1 to 15 for each permit holder. At least forty-seven bear were killed under the agriculture damage shooting permits. One bear was killed on the nuisance permits in 2014. In 2013, thirty-eight agriculture damage bear shooting permits were issued with at least forty-three bear being killed. Six nuisance bear shooting permit were issued in 2013 with no bears killed under those permits.

Most of the corn crop was past the milk stage prior to the bear season opening, but as is usual a predominance of natural foods during the first part of the bear hunting season may have caused bears to visit bait sites with less regularity. Bait stations continued to be visited by bears with at least some degree of activity throughout much of the hunting season. Much of September saw average to slightly below temperatures with above normal precipitation. While the wet conditions may have had a limited effect on access of remote areas, temperatures should have been conducive to hunters pursuing bears. The 2014 bear kill of 4,526 was the third highest ever and very close to the WDNR harvest goal of 4,700 bears. Hunter success in 2014 was 44%, below the long-term average of 55%.

The WDNR Black Bear Advisory Committee, with support from GLIFWC, USFS, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Wisconsin

Conservation Congress established a harvest goal of 4,750 bears for the 2015 season. A total of 10,690 Black Bear harvest permits will be available to hunters to achieve this goal.

Table 1. *Harvest goal, number of permits issued, bear kill and percent success, by zone for the 2014 black bear season.*

Zone	Harvest Goal	Permits Issued	Black Bear Kill	Permit Success
A	1,100	2,070	1,315	64%
B	650	990	738	75%
C	1,350	5,050	1,024	20%
D	1,600	2,230	1,444	65%
Unknown			5	
Total	4,700	10,340	4,526	44%

Table 2. *Black bear kill by WDNR region, 2014.*

Region	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
Northeastern	226	175	9	410
Northern	1,758	1,789	43	3,590
West Central	271	246	9	526
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	2,255	2,210	61	4,526

Table 3. *Black bear kill by zone, 2014.*

Zone	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
A	691	599	25	1,315
B	332	398	8	738
C	559	451	14	1,024
D	671	759	14	1,444
Unknown	2	3	0	5
Total	2,255	2,210	61	4,526

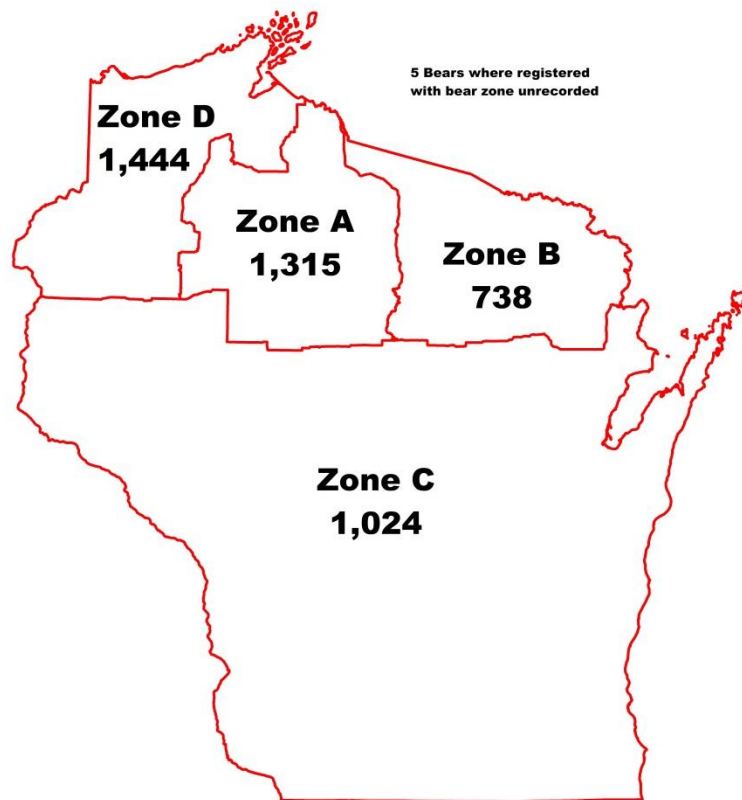


Figure 1. *The 2014 black bear kill by zone.*

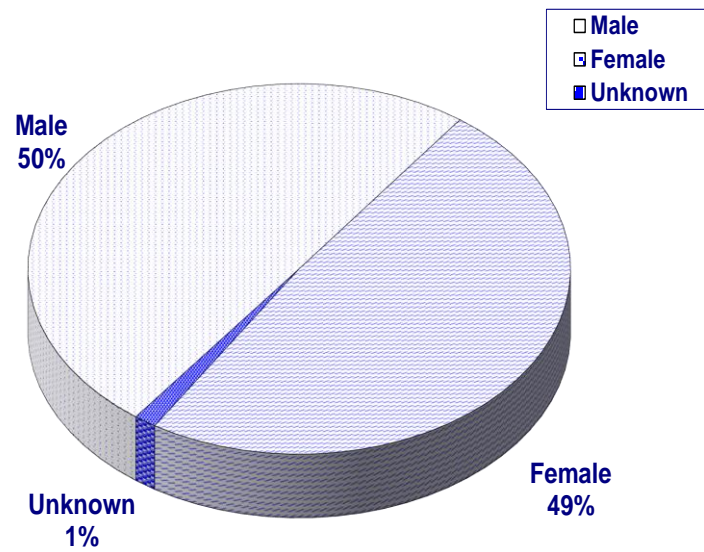


Figure 2. *The 2014 black bear harvest by sex.*

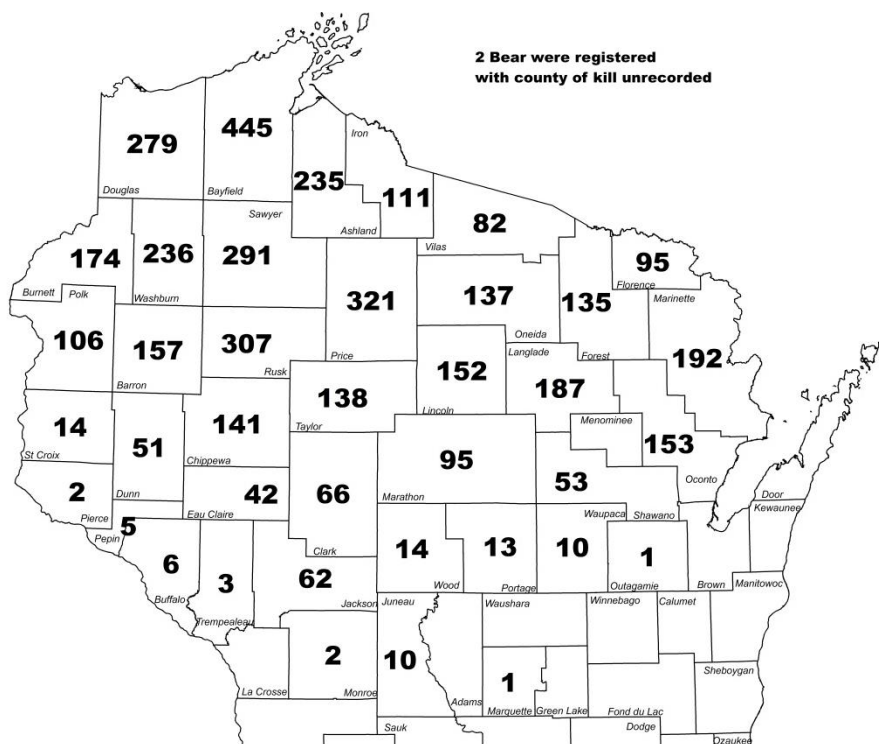


Figure 3. The 2014 black bear kill by county.

Table 4. The 2014 black bear kill by county and sex.

County	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total	County	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total
Ashland	124	105	6	235	Oconto	84	62	7	153
Barron	76	80	1	157	Oneida	69	68	0	137
Bayfield	242	200	3	445	Outagamie	1	0	0	1
Buffalo	3	3	0	6	Pepin	4	1	0	5
Burnett	87	86	1	174	Pierce	2	0	0	2
Chippewa	64	75	2	141	Polk	43	63	0	106
Clark	32	31	3	66	Portage	6	7	0	13
Douglas	138	137	4	279	Price	164	152	5	321
Dunn	27	22	2	51	Rusk	154	147	6	307
Eau Claire	13	29	0	42	St. Croix	9	5	0	14
Florence	38	57	0	95	Sawyer	137	148	6	291
Forest	55	80	0	135	Shawano	34	18	1	53
Iron	68	42	1	111	Taylor	72	64	2	138
Jackson	37	24	1	62	Trempealeau	1	2	0	3
Juneau	5	5	0	10	Vilas	37	44	1	82
Langlade	99	87	1	187	Washburn	79	152	5	236
Lincoln	75	76	1	152	Waupaca	7	3	0	10
Marathon	58	36	1	95	Wood	8	6	0	14
Marinette	99	92	1	192	Unknown	1	1	0	2
Marquette	1	0	0	1					
Monroe	2	0	0	2	Total	2,255	2,210	61	4,526

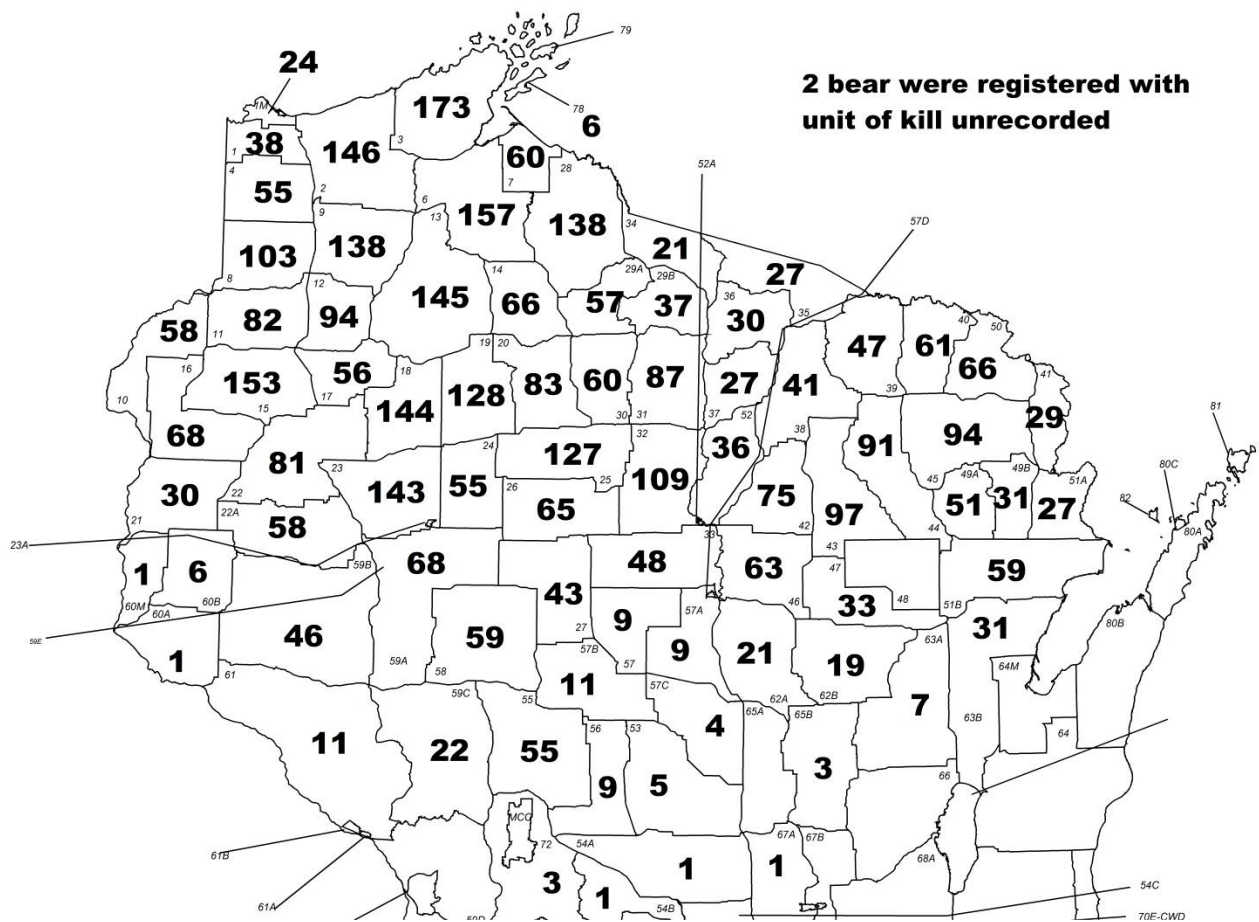


Figure 4. *The 2014 black bear kill by game management unit.*

Table 5. *The 2014 black bear harvest by game management unit and sex.*

Unit	Males	Females	Unks	Total	Unit	Males	Females	Unks	Total
1	11	27	0	38	40	23	38	0	61
2	80	63	3	146	41	19	10	0	29
3	84	87	2	173	42	31	43	1	75
4	32	22	1	55	43	53	44	0	97
6	91	65	1	157	44	50	38	3	91
7	30	30	0	60	45	43	50	1	94
8	53	49	1	103	46	37	25	1	63
9	62	75	1	138	47	16	17	0	33
10	30	28	0	58	49A	24	26	1	51
11	38	43	1	82	49B	7	23	1	31
12	29	63	2	94	50	30	36	0	66
13	85	57	3	145	51A	17	10	0	27
14	30	32	4	66	51B	37	20	2	59
15	64	86	3	153	52	13	23	0	36
16	24	44	0	68	53	2	3	0	5
17	18	38	0	56	54A	0	1	0	1
18	73	70	1	144	54B	1	0	0	1
19	58	66	4	128	55	34	19	2	55
1M	15	9	0	24	56	6	3	0	9
20	44	39	0	83	57	4	5	0	9
21	17	13	0	30	57A	4	5	0	9
22	37	44	0	81	57B	5	6	0	11
22A	28	27	3	58	57C	3	1	0	4
23	77	65	1	143	58	21	37	1	59
24	33	22	0	55	59A	25	43	0	68
25	63	60	4	127	59B	25	19	2	46
26	33	30	2	65	59C	11	11	0	22
27	22	20	1	43	60A	1	0	0	1
28	83	53	2	138	60B	4	2	0	6
29A	25	32	0	57	60M	1	0	0	1
29B	20	17	0	37	61	5	6	0	11
30	34	25	1	60	62A	12	9	0	21
31	41	46	0	87	62B	15	4	0	19
32	57	49	3	109	63A	5	2	0	7
33	33	15	0	48	63B	17	13	1	31
34	10	11	0	21	65B	1	2	0	3
35	11	15	1	27	67A	1	0	0	1
36	15	15	0	30	72	1	2	0	3
37	16	11	0	27	78	2	4	0	6
38	23	18	0	41	Unk	1	1	0	2
39	19	28	0	47	Total	2,255	2,210	61	4,526

Table 6. The 2014 black bear kill by hunting method and weapon type (does not include Chippewa harvest of 39 bear).

Method	Weapon			Total
	Bow	Gun	Unreported	
Dogs	16	536	1	553
Bait	658	2,727	10	3,395
Dogs and Bait	12	427	3	442
None	8	60	1	69
Unknown	1	26	1	28
Total	695	3,776	16	4,487

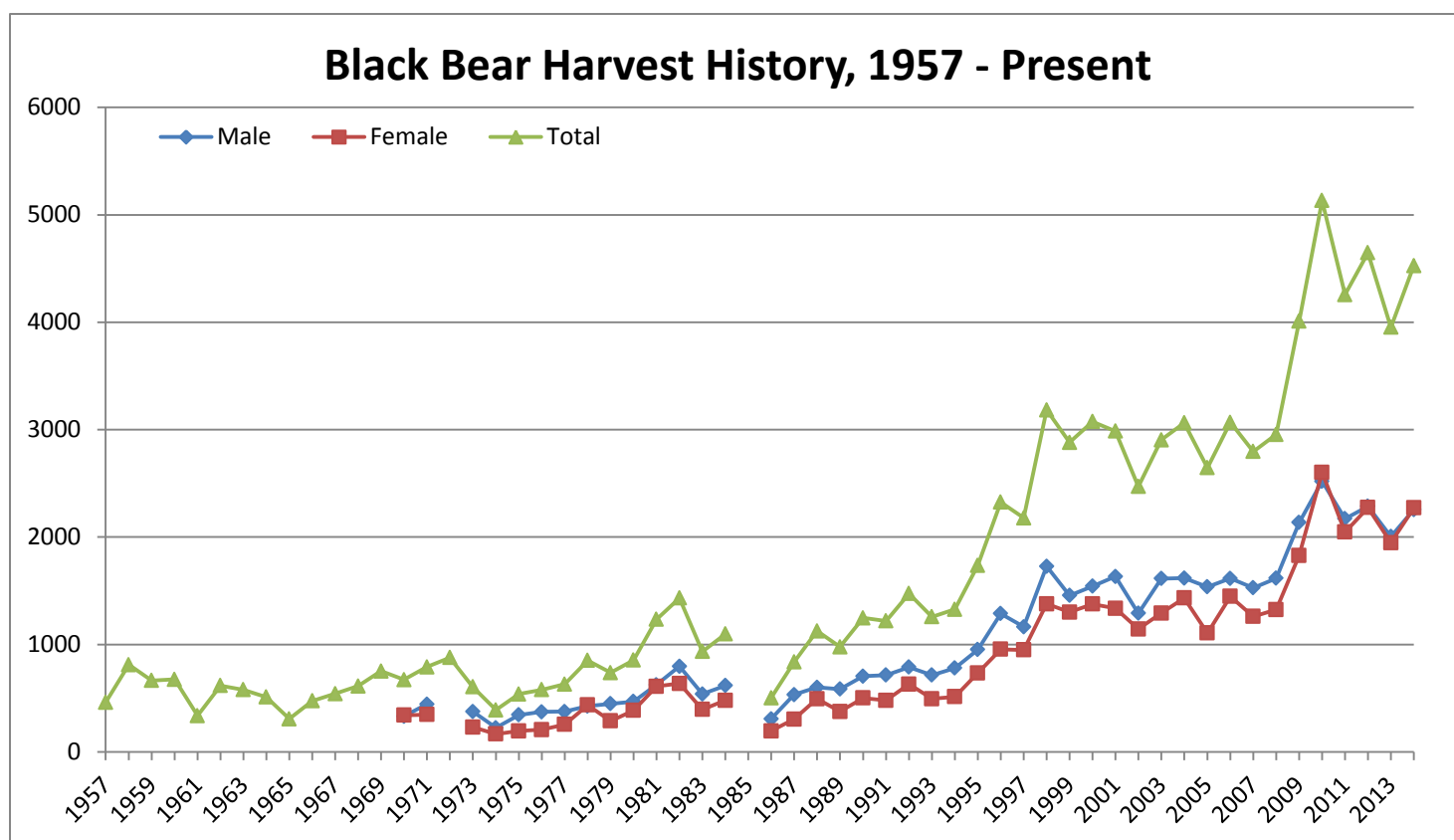


Figure 5. Black bear kill, 1957-2014.

Table 7. *Black bear kill by sex, 1957-2014.*

Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total	Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total
1957	---	---		460	2008	1,616	1,324	15	2,955
1958	---	---		811	2009	2,135	1,828	46	4,009
1959	---	---		665	2010	2,519	2,602	12	5,133
1960	---	---		675	2011	2,171	2,047	39	4,257
1961	---	---		337	2012	2,287	2,275	84	4,646
1962	----	---		617	2013	2,005	1,888	59	3,952
1963	---	---		579	2014	2,255	2,210	61	4,526
1964	---	---		511					
1965	---	---		308					
1966	---	---		475					
1967	---	---		541					
1968	---	---		613					
1969	---	---		752					
1970	331	341		672					
1971	444	347		791					
1972	---	---		878					
1973	376	230		606					
1974	224	166		390					
1975	344	195		539					
1976	373	206		579					
1977	375	256		631					
1978	426	436	10	872					
1979	449	288		737					
1980	469	386		855					
1981	624	610		1,234					
1982	797	636		1,433					
1983	539	395		934					
1984	617	480		1,097					
1985	No	Season							
1986	308	195		503					
1987	533	304		837					
1988	601	494	30	1,125					
1989	584	375	19	978					
1990	705	501	41	1,247					
1991	715	480	24	1,219					
1992	789	631	54	1,474					
1993	715	494	49	1,258					
1994	781	513	34	1,328					
1995	953	735	49	1,737					
1996	1,288	955	82	2,325					
1997	1,165	950	63	2,178					
1998	1,727	1,378	79	3,184					
1999	1,456	1,301	124	2,881					
2000	1,543	1,376	156	3,075					
2001	1,632	1,336	18	2,986					
2002	1,290	1,143	38	2,471					
2003	1,613	1,288	4	2,905					
2004	1,618	1,433	12	3,063					
2005	1,537	1,107	1	2,645					
2006	1,615	1,448	5	3,068					
2007	1,528	1,261	8	2,797					

Table 8. *The 2014 Tribal black bear kill by deer management unit and sex¹.*

Deer Unit	Male	Female	Totals
01	0	1	1
02	1	0	1
03	4	10	14
04	2	1	3
05	1	0	1
06	2	2	4
10	1	0	1
11	2	0	2
15	1	0	1
26	0	1	1
29A	0	1	1
31	1	0	1
37	1	0	1
38	3	0	3
44	0	2	2
Unknown	1	1	2
Totals	20	19	39

¹ These data are included in the statewide totals.

Table 10. *The number of black bear harvest permits issued and the number of applicants, 1974-2015.*

Year	Residents	Non-residents	No. Permits Issued	No. of Applicants
1974	3,459		3,459	3,459
1975	4,116		4,116	4,116
1976	4,899		4,899	4,899
1977	5,025		5,025	5,025
1978	6,283		6,283	6,283
1979	5,612	179	5,791	5,791
1980	6,352	171	6,523	6,523
1981	7,247	241	7,488	7,488
1982	8,142	224	8,366	8,366
1983	7,077	218	7,295	7,295
1984	6,439	320	6,759	6,759
1985	Season		Closed	
1986			840	8,289
1987			1,730	10,203
1988			1,663	10,208
1989			2,020	13,734
1990			2,825	15,988
1991			2,560	17,668
1992			2,620	19,415
1993			2,110	22,555
1994			2,175	25,799
1995			2,710	30,086
1996			4,570	35,356
1997			4,700	41,969
1998			5,860	44,928
1999			6,014	50,938
2000			6,598	50,601
2001			5,681	53,508
2002			4,985	54,879
2003			4,710	56,944
2004			4,741	61,726
2005			4,549	66,777
2006			4,277	68,821
2007			4,405	80,213
2008			4,660	86,138
2009			7,310	95,384
2010			8,910	97,467
2011			9,005	103,854
2012			9,015	104,391
2013			8,560	106,573
2014			10,340	108,271
2015			10,690	109,088

Wisconsin Wolf Season Report

2014-15

David MacFarland and Jane Wiedenhoef

Abstract

Wisconsin wolf hunters and trappers harvested 154 wolves during the 2014-15 season. This was a 60% decrease from the 2013-14 harvest of 257 wolves. The 2014-15 harvest was comprised of 87 males and 67 females.

Background

Wisconsin requires state-licensed hunters and trappers to obtain a wolf permit to harvest a wolf. Permits are issued through a two-stage process. The first 50% of permits are issued through a random lottery in which all applicants are entered. The second 50% of permits are issued based upon the cumulative preference points of applicants, which give unsuccessful applicants from prior years a greater chance to obtain a permit. Each permit allows the harvest of one wolf by any legal method. Legal methods include trapping with foothold traps and cable restraints, hunting with the use of electronic calls, bait and the aid of dogs.

Wisconsin's wolf season opens on October 15th of each year. Trapping with foothold traps and hunting with the aid of bait and calls are legal throughout the season. Trapping with cable restraints and hunting with the aid of dogs become legal methods on the Monday following the gun deer season; in 2014 these became legal methods on December 1. The state is divided into 6 wolf management zones (Figure 1). Wolf permits authorize hunting and trapping in any open zone. The department has the authority to close wolf zones as zone specific quotas are reached. If quotas are not met the season closes on February 28.

Methods

Wisconsin requires state-licensed wolf hunters and trappers to register their wolf using a 2 stage registration process. Within 24 hours of harvest, permit holders are required to inform the department by phone of the harvest location, sex and method used. This information is used to track harvest by unit and make unit closure decisions. By the 5th day of the month following harvest, hunters and trappers are required to present the pelt and skinned carcass to the department for final registration and tagging of the animal. The department collects a pre-molar for aging purposes, a genetic sample, and a reproductive tract from females.

Results

Wolf season

Of 9,334 permit applicants, 1,500 (16.1%) received authorization to purchase a wolf permit. An additional 5,005 individuals applied for a preference point bringing the total number of applicants to 14,339 (table 1). The statewide wolf quota was set at 156 with 150 available to state license

holders, the total wolf harvest in the 2014-15 season was 154 representing a 23.8% harvest rate (table 2) compared to 257 and 32.4% in the 2013-14 season. Males comprised 56.5% (87) and females 43.5% (67) of the total harvest. Wolf harvest was distributed across the 6 management units according to unit specific quotas (table 2, figure 2).

Of the 154 wolves harvested, trapping with foothold traps accounted for 124 (80.5%), and 30 (19.5%) wolves were harvested by hunters. Of the 30 wolves harvested by hunters, 6 (3.8%) were hunted with the aid of dogs. Three wolves were harvested with archery equipment; firearm was the method of harvest for all other animals (table 3). No wolves were harvested with the use of cable restraints.

All zones opened to wolf harvest on October 15. The first zone closure (zone 2) occurred on October 18, the final zones (zones 3 and 6) closed on December 5 (table 2). The rate of harvest in the 2014-15 season was faster than experienced in the previous 2 seasons (figure 3).

Biological Sample Collection

Successful license holders are required to submit wolf carcasses to the Department. The primary objective in carcass collection is to obtain biological samples. A genetic sample and a tooth for aging was collected from every carcass received. A reproductive tract was collected from every female. Data analysis will be completed by summer 2015.

In response to concerns over the use of dogs in wolf hunting, the Natural Resources Board directed the DNR to establish a voluntary program to evaluate wolf carcasses at the time of pelt removal. The purpose of this program was to provide additional information on the prevalence of bite related injuries in harvested animals. Successful hunters and trappers were asked if they would like to participate during the call-in registration process. Personnel from USDA-Wildlife Services traveled to the participant and collected information as the pelt was removed from the animal. Eight evaluations were conducted with no bite related injuries observed. All eight animals were harvested with the use of foothold traps.

Law Enforcement Activities

Department law enforcement personnel conducted a total of 19 wolf hunting/trapping related investigations and issued 6 citations during the 2014-15 wolf season (table 4).

Table 1: Wolf permit applications

	Resident	Non-resident	Total
Harvest permit	9,195	139	9,334
Preference point	4,859	146	5,005
Total	14,054	285	14,339

Table 2: Wolf quota, harvest and closure date by management zone.

Zone	2014 off reservation winter count mid-point	Total quota	State-licensed quota	Harvest	Harvest Rate as % of winter count	Closure date
1	275	33	32	36	13.1	10/19/14
2	139	16	15	29	20.9	10/18/14
3	82	41	40	30	36.6	12/5/14
4	18	9	8	5	27.8	10/19/14
5	106	21	20	18	17.0	10/20/14
6	28	36	35	36	128.6	12/5/14
Total	648	156	150	154	23.8	12/5/14

Table 3: Method of harvest by management zone.

Unit	Gun	Bow	Foothold Trap	Gun - with the aid of Dogs ^a	Total
1	8		28		36
2	2		27		29
3	4		25	1	30
4	1		4		5
5	1	1	16		18
6	5	2	24	5	36
Total	21	3	124	6	154

^a wolves harvested by gunshot with the aid of trailing hounds.

Table 4: Summary of law enforcement activity during the wolf season

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Total
# of Wolf Hunting related complaints received:	5		1			6
# of Wolf Trapping related complaints received:	11	1				13
# of Wolf related Investigations conducted:	14	2	1			19
# of Hunting related citations issued:	1		1			2
# of Trapping related citations issued:	4					4
# of Verbal Warnings Issued:	8	1				9

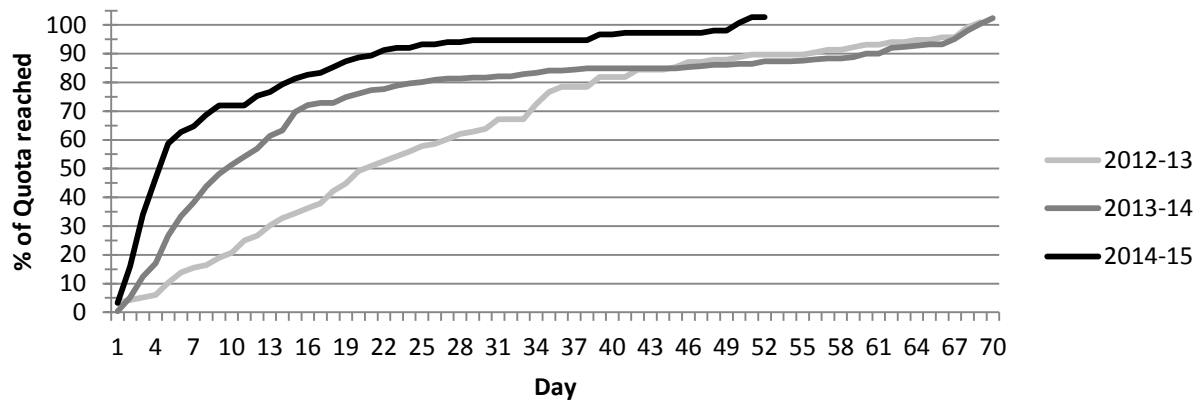


Figure 3: Comparative rate of harvest in Wisconsin's first 3 wolf seasons

Spring Turkey Harvest Report 2014

By Brian Dhuey, Krista McGinley and Scott Walter

Abstract

A total of 41,815 turkeys were harvested during the 2014 spring turkey hunt. The spring season was comprised of 6 hunting periods in 7 turkey management zones, 17 state parks and Fort McCoy. The uncorrected success rate for permit holders was 20%, based on a total of 210,496 permits issued. Hunter success rates of 20% or above occurred in 2 of the 7 major hunting zones. Highest success rates per hunting period occurred in the first period of the season. Ninety percent of the harvested males were adults, up from 73% in the 2013 harvest. One hunting incident occurred during the spring season; the accident involved the hunter mistaking another individual for game.

Methods

Harvest information was obtained through mandatory registration of harvested turkeys. All turkey hunters are required to report their harvest with 24 hours of the kill via phone-in registration or via the DNR website. All registered birds are given a confirmation number which the hunter must retain until the bird is consumed. Registration records were then compiled and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Hunting Zones

Wisconsin is divided into 7 Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) with similar timber, agriculture, ownership, and hunter and turkey densities (Figure 1). Twelve state parks and Fort McCoy allow limited access for turkey hunting as well. Most parts of the state have some amount of turkey activity during the year.

Permit Levels

Permit levels in each zone are decided upon by the DNR Turkey Committee. Consideration is given to the following when permits levels are set: previous hunter success rates, turkey population and distribution within a zone, square miles of turkey range (i.e., square miles of timber), recruitment, winter severity, and hunter interference rates (Table 1).

A total of 210,496 permits were issued in 2014 compared to 217,798 in 2013 and 201,984 in 2012. A total of 140,803 applications were received for the spring hunt. There were 135,902 permits issued via a drawing/preference process to these applicants by mail. A total of 4,901 applicants did not get a permit through the drawing process. These applicants either applied for oversubscribed zones or restricted their choices to the first 3 hunt periods where there were more applicants than permits. One zone was oversubscribed in 2014.

This was the eighth year that leftover permits were sold (\$10 for resident, \$15 for non-residents) over the counter (OTC) at WDNR license sales locations on a first-come, first-served basis at a rate of one permit per day. This continued until all permits available for a zone were issued or the season closed. A total of 74,270 permits were issued this way.

Permit Selection

All applicants were required to pay a \$3 application fee for a spring turkey permit application to enter the preference drawing. Preference for permits was given first to landowners (up to 30% of permits available per zone/time period combination), followed by residents who applied for but did not receive a permit in the spring of 2013, other residents, and finally non-residents. Applications were randomly selected, but first choice zone and time period of all applicants within each preference category were issued available permits before second, third, fourth, etc. choices were filled.

Age Ratio

Adult gobblers comprised 91% of the 2014 spring turkey harvest (Table 2). This proportion is higher than the 2013 level of 73% and is not typical of year of “normal” recruitment during which harvests comprised of 70% adults. The change in the percent adults in the 2014 harvest did match with an increase in recruitment in 2012 and poor recruitment in 2013, meaning there were many two year old gobblers and fewer jakes available for harvest. Hunters being more selective in harvesting turkeys in the spring and selecting adult toms may have affected this ratio as well.

Harvest and Success Rates

The 2014 spring turkey harvest was 41,815 birds taken (Figure 1, Table 3). This was 11% more than the 37,804 killed in 2013 and well short of the record harvest total for the state of 52,880 take in 2008. The hunter success rate of 20% was higher than last year’s 17% and close to the long-term average.

Good hunter success rates (defined as above 20%) occurred in 2 of the 7 main turkey zones open to spring hunting (Table 4). TMZ 2 and 3 were the only one above 20% and had the hunter success rates of 23% and 20%, while all other TMZs were between 11-19%. The highest success rates per period occurred in the first period of the season, at 25%. While the winter of 2014 was long and hard, spring arrival was normal with slightly below-average temps and above-average rainfall. A more normal weather pattern returned to the state for the latter hunting periods. These periods had more normal spring phenology, and there may have been increased breeding behavior during these later periods. Recruitment was below normal in 2013 and below 2012 levels and parts of the state may have had reduced turkeys numbers.

A statewide youth turkey hunt was held for the eighth time in the spring of 2014. This was the fifth spring of the mentored hunting law, which allows youth ages 10 and older to hunt without a Hunter’s Education card as long as they were accompanied by an 18 year or older adult. All youth ages 10-15 that had obtained a Hunter’s Ed card or were a mentored hunter, and held a valid turkey permit and license were eligible to hunt. Youth were restricted to the zone of their valid turkey permit but the permit could be from any time period. The hunt occurred on the 11th-12th of April, with 1,929 turkeys being harvested (Table 3). All unused permits were still valid for the zone and time period of issuance.

Accidents

There was one hunting accident during the 2014 spring turkey hunt; 2 in 2013 and 3 in 2012. The accident involved one hunter mistakenly shooting someone when they thought they were shooting at a turkey. Turkey hunting continues to be a very safe sport with less than 3 accidents per 100,000 permits.

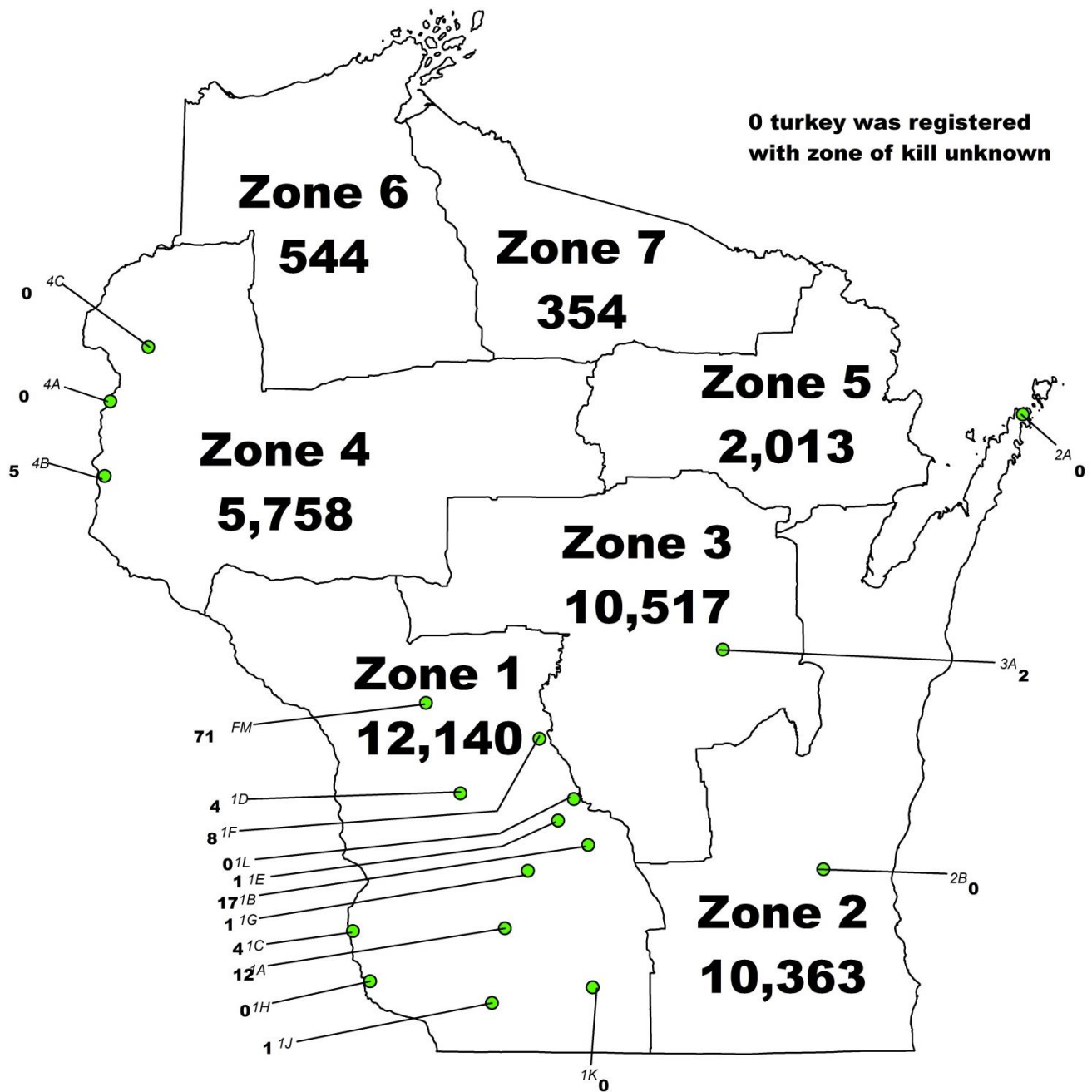


Figure 1. Spring Turkey harvest by zone, 2014.

Table 1. Total number of spring turkey permits issued, 1994-2014.

Zone	1994 ^a	1995 ^a	1996 ^a	1997 ^a	1998 ^a	1999 ^a	2000 ^a	2001 ^a	2002 ^a	2003 ^a	2004 ^a	2005 ^a	2006 ^a	2007 ^a	2008 ^a	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	50,299	44,661	48,117	54,265	56,983	59,534	67,476	68,990	68,434	68,820	71,764	72,303	71,806	70,893	70,167	70,068	68,806	67,152	59,875	66,061	62,903
2	5,252	5,497	7,005	8,562	10,057	11,017	13,496	15,496	16,656	18,600	22,616	23,850	27,022	28,857	29,729	34,196	34,344	34,198	40,797	41,999	45,000
3	9,852	10,630	12,558	19,460	22,193	27,007	32,859	44,858	50,102	52,800	56,896	59,100	59,215	59,876	60,390	59,694	56,273	54,611	48,898	54,430	51,826
4	2,978	4,603	5,309	7,106	8,384	10,901	14,031	16,558	18,701	21,890	26,143	28,524	30,076	31,632	33,032	34,909	35,295	34,908	31,974	34,914	31,287
5	2,652	2,803	2,504	2,806	2,845	3,094	3,564	4,688	5,408	6,300	8,510	9,303	9,463	10,055	10,722	11,989	12,087	11,994	11,654	11,998	11,132
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,350	2,011	2,763	4,200	4,510	4,495	4,499	4,500	4,327
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,203	1,200	1,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	3,602	3,600	3,348
FM	222	235	0	449	463	463	610	555	555	0	482	510	510	510	384	398	351	325	392	296	324
Total	71,255	68,429	75,493	92,648	100,925	112,016	132,036	151,145	159,856	168,410	186,411	193,590	200,645	205,034	208,687	217,854	214,066	210,083	201,691	217,798	210,496

^a Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information**Table 2. Percent of the harvest composed of adult gobblers, 1994-2014.**

Zone	1994 ^a	1995 ^a	1996 ^a	1997 ^a	1998 ^a	1999 ^a	2000 ^a	2001 ^a	2002 ^a	2003 ^a	2004 ^a	2005 ^a	2006 ^a	2007 ^a	2008 ^a	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	73	59	72	72	67	63	75	79	72	75	78	86	71	73	78	84	80	77	82	73	90
2	75	62	64	72	66	63	68	77	69	73	79	86	75	78	80	87	81	78	84	76	89
3	70	55	70	71	70	68	76	80	73	76	76	87	68	75	81	84	77	76	81	72	91
4	71	61	67	63	61	55	71	75	72	77	76	86	71	73	81	88	83	79	81	69	93
5	63	48	45	61	53	56	66	70	68	83	75	82	71	76	83	86	81	75	82	76	91
6													75	69	79	87	80	75	78	76	90
7													76	75	77	83	83	77	81	75	86
FM															89	90	85	88	79	87	90
Statewide	74	59	70	71	68	65	74	79	72	76	78	87	72	75	81	86	80	77	82	73	91

^a Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information

Table 3. The 2014 spring turkey harvest by zone and time period.

Success rates are uncorrected for nonparticipation.																
Zone	A		B		C		D		E		F		Special Hunts		Total	
	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Learn to Hunt	Youth Hunt	Kill	% Success
01	3,300	27%	2,446	20%	2,090	17%	1,737	14%	1,260	14%	607	14%	155	545	12,140	19%
02	2,016	27%	1,865	25%	1,700	23%	1,356	18%	1,421	19%	1,149	15%	285	571	10,363	23%
03	2,669	25%	2,181	21%	1,955	19%	1,452	14%	1,032	16%	569	17%	192	467	10,517	20%
04	1,187	20%	1,050	18%	926	16%	907	19%	725	16%	626	14%	99	238	5,758	18%
05	386	19%	416	21%	361	18%	266	13%	261	16%	183	12%	56	84	2,013	18%
06	122	16%	122	16%	101	13%	75	10%	73	10%	31	5%	5	15	544	13%
07	61	10%	77	13%	74	12%	54	9%	51	9%	28	8%	2	7	354	11%
01A	2	17%	4	33%	4	31%	1 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	1	12	32%
01B	6	40%	4	27%	6	40%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	1	17	38%
01C	3	38%	1	13%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	4	15%
01D	3	25%	1	8%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	4	11%
01E	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	1	7%
01F	3	14%	5	24%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	8	13%
02A	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	0	0%
03A	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	1 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	2	11%
04A	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	0	0%
04B	3	38%	1	13%	0	0%	1 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	5	21%
04C	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	0	0%
01G	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	1 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	1	20%
01H	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	0	0%
01J	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	1	17%
01K	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	0	0%
01L	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0 #DIV/0!	0	0	0	0%
02B	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
FM	29	35%	22	22%	1	3%	7	18%	2	8%	10	25%	0	0	71	22%
Unks	0	0%		0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
Total	9,790	25%	8,198	21%	7,218	18%	5,856	15%	4,827	16%	3,203	15%	794	1,929	41,815	20%

Table 4. *Hunter success rates (percent successful) for 1994-2014.*

Zone	1994 ^a	1995 ^a	1996 ^a	1997 ^a	1998 ^a	1999 ^a	2000 ^a	2001 ^a	2002 ^a	2003 ^a	2004 ^a	2005 ^a	2006 ^a	2007 ^a	2008 ^a	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	18%	23%	24%	22%	27%	29%	28%	25%	24%	24%	24%	22%	21%	22%	23%	22%	22%	18%	20%	17%	19%
2	18%	21%	22%	22%	25%	29%	29%	28%	27%	32%	32%	31%	29%	28%	30%	30%	28%	25%	26%	21%	23%
3	17%	23%	27%	26%	31%	32%	31%	26%	24%	24%	24%	22%	22%	25%	24%	22%	19%	18%	21%	17%	20%
4	17%	20%	21%	22%	31%	31%	29%	28%	27%	26%	27%	26%	27%	30%	28%	28%	23%	18%	19%	15%	18%
5	10%	14%	14%	16%	18%	23%	26%	24%	24%	20%	22%	21%	21%	24%	25%	22%	20%	18%	19%	17%	18%
6													28%	25%	26%	21%	19%	18%	17%	14%	13%
7													19%	20%	22%	15%	17%	16%	16%	12%	11%
FM Total	30%	41%		25%	32%	32%	29%	28%	25%	0%	25%	28%	22%	24%	33%	27%	26%	20%	28%	33%	22%
Statewide	18%	22%	24%	23%	28%	30%	29%	26%	25%	25%	25%	24%	23%	25%	25%	24%	22%	19%	21%	17%	20%

^a Data was compiled from “old” turkey zone information

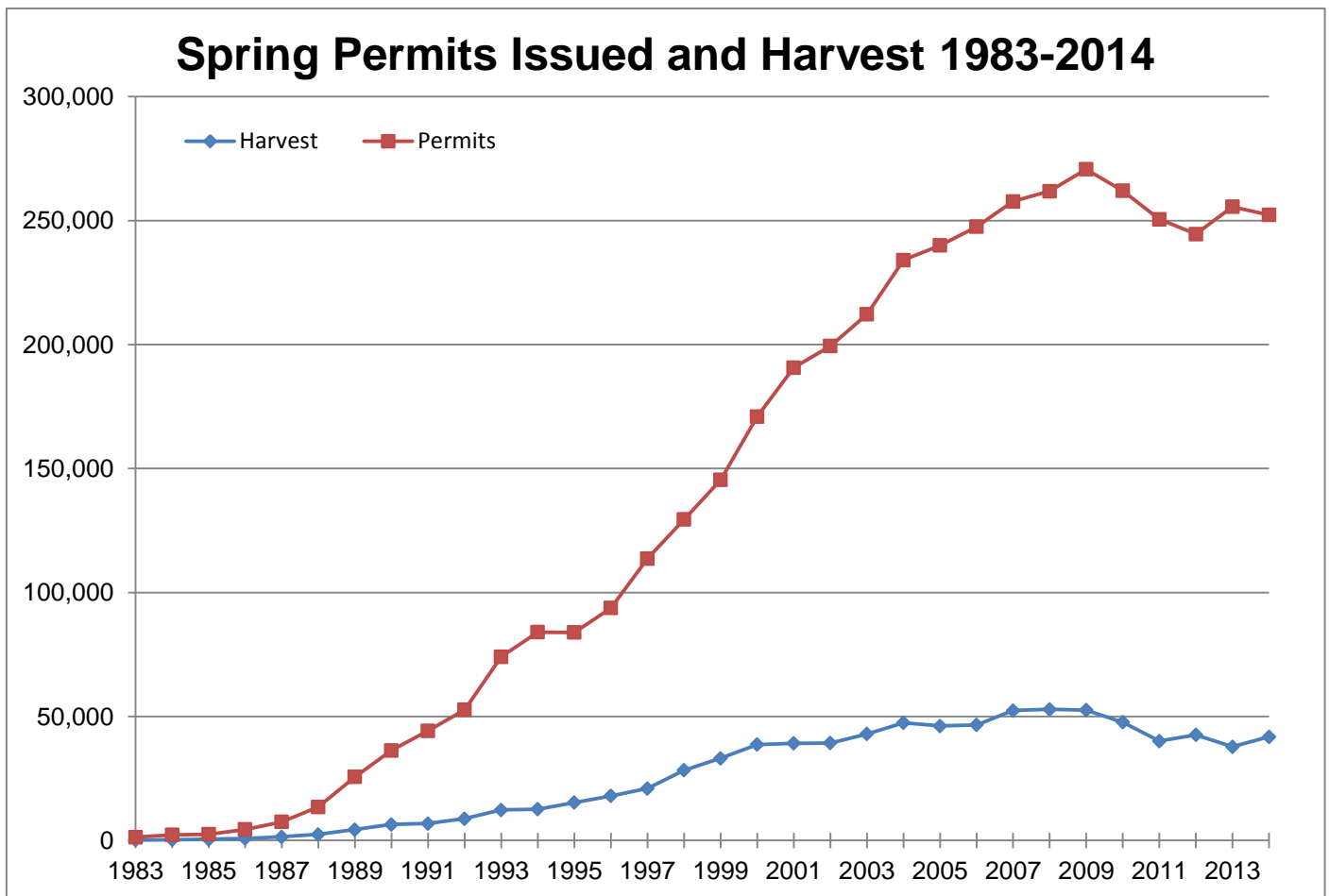


Figure 2. *Spring turkey permits issued and harvest, 1983-2014.*

Table 5. *Historical number of permits issued, harvest, and permit success for spring turkey hunting, 1983-2014.*

Year	Permits	Harvest	Permit Success
1983	1,200	182	15.2%
1984	1,950	303	15.5%
1985	2,025	496	24.5%
1986	3,675	793	21.6%
1987	6,040	1,478	24.5%
1988	11,070	2,486	22.5%
1989	21,280	4,400	20.7%
1990	29,877	6,465	21.6%
1991	37,414	6,846	18.3%
1992	43,925	8,798	20.0%
1993	61,767	12,316	19.9%
1994	71,420	12,637	17.7%
1995	68,588	15,323	22.3%
1996	75,812	18,000	23.7%
1997	92,734	20,992	22.6%
1998	101,141	28,338	28.0%
1999	112,256	33,168	29.5%
2000	132,318	38,686	29.2%
2001	151,522	39,211	25.9%
2002	160,101	39,336	24.6%
2003	169,277	42,970	25.4%
2004	186,608	47,477	25.4%
2005	193,826	46,183	23.8%
2006	200,869	46,662	23.2%
2007	205,306	52,428	25.5%
2008	208,972	52,880	25.3%
2009	218,133	52,581	24.1%
2010	214,356	47,722	22.3%
2011	210,384	40,133	19.1%
2012	201,984	42,612	21.1%
2013	217,798	37,804	17.4%
2014	210,496	41,815	19.9%

Fall Turkey Harvest Report 2014

by Brian Dhuey, Krista McGinley, and Scott Walter

Abstract

The fall turkey season ran for 69 days, from 13 September through 20 November. A second period fall hunt occurred from 1-31 December in Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) 1-5. Statewide, the number of permits available (96,700) was the same as in 2013. Total permits issued through a random drawing process and over-the-counter sales were 62,708. Permitted hunters harvested 4,228 turkeys for a success rate of 6.7%. This success rate was lower than the 7.1% recorded last year. Turkey brood production can affect the number of birds available to harvest in fall, brood production varied across the state and may have resulted in turkey numbers varying across the state. While turkey numbers vary among regions, on the whole turkeys are doing well with strong numbers into the fall hunting season.

Methods

Harvest information was obtained through mandatory registration of harvested turkeys. Starting in the fall of 2011 hunters were no longer required to take a harvested bird to a registration station, but instead could register their bird over the phone or on the DNR website. Information collected at the time of registration was the same as in the past with hunters required to inform the WDNR of the zone, county, date of kill, sex and age of each turkey killed. Registration records were summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

The whole state was open to fall turkey hunting from 13 September – 20 November in 2014 (Figure 1). The fall hunting season structure was changed in 2009, with a second period added after the close of the 9-day gun deer season (in 2014 the second season ran from 1 - 31 December) in the southern Turkey Management Zones 1-5. This allowed most fall turkey hunters 100 days afield to pursue turkeys. This was done to allow hunters to enjoy an extended season and increase their chances of bagging a bird. Past modern fall hunts have ranged from 7 - 99 days.

Permit Levels

Permit levels vary depending on the spring hunting success, amount of timber, hunter interference, and turkey population densities and distributions within zones. With turkey brood production average to below for parts of the state in 2014, and spring success increasing, the WDNR Wild Turkey Committee did not change the permit level for the 2014 fall season (Table 1).

Permit Selection

All applicants were required to pay a \$3 fee for an application to enter the preference drawing. Preference for permits was given first to landowners (up to 30% of permits available in each zone), followed by residents who applied for but did not receive a permit in the fall of 2013, other residents, and finally non-residents. Applications were randomly selected, but first choice zones of all applicants within each preference category were issued available permits before second, third, fourth, etc. choices were filled.

Like in the spring, leftover permits were sold (\$10 for resident, \$15 for non-residents) over-the-counter at DNR license sales locations on a first-come, first-served basis at a rate of one permit per day. This continued until all permits available for a zone were issued.

A total of 54,382 permits were issued through the drawing process and another 8,326 over-the-counter for a total of 62,708. This was less than the 64,983 issued in the fall of 2013.

Harvest and Success Rates

Fall turkey hunters registered 4,228 turkeys in the fall of 2014. This is a decrease from the 4,631 registered in the fall of 2013. Success rates were down, with 6.7% of permit holders killing a bird; lower than the 7.1% in 2013 and has decreased 4 of the prior 5 years. Data on the historical fall turkey harvests are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Beginning in 2007, the start of the fall turkey season was moved up from the 1st of October to open concurrent with the archery season in mid-September. This was done to give hunters more opportunity to hunt fall turkeys. The fall turkey season overlapped a statewide 2-day youth deer hunt, all hunters are required to wear blaze orange during this deer season. This blaze orange requirement probably had the effect of eliminating days of fall turkey hunting.

After a successful three-year trial period, the use of dogs for fall turkey hunting was allowed statewide. It was legal to fall turkey hunt with the aid of dogs for the entire fall season.

The fall hunter's success rate (percent of permits that harvested a turkey) was 6.7%, down from 7.1% in 2013 and the lowest in the last several years. Fall success rates varied by zone from 5.8 to 9.9%, with the highest success rate occurring in Zone 1 (Figure 1, Table1). There are a number of factors that affect turkey success rates: turkey abundance, weather, other concurrent hunting seasons, permit levels and hunting techniques. As permits become more common, they may fall into the hands of the less devoted turkey hunter, primarily bow hunters who may apply for a turkey permit on the off chance that one might walk under their tree stand while bow hunting, for example. These less dedicated hunters may never go out with the sole purpose of hunting turkeys. Data from the Fall Turkey Hunter Survey indicates that approximately 30% of hunters purchasing a fall turkey permit only hunt turkeys "opportunistically" when hunting other game. Lastly, the sale of second tags to hunters could have an effect on success rates, as they may feel more "invested" in harvesting a turkey as they had to pay some amount for the permit as opposed to getting it free through the drawing process from the DNR. Fall Turkey Hunter surveys show that hunter participation in 2014 was 65%, the same as in 2013, but lower than the average between 1989 and 2013 of 73%. Hunter success rates are uncorrected for non-active hunters and noncompliance, actual success rates are higher.

Age and Sex Ratios

The percentage of the harvest composed of adult turkeys (66%) was lower than in 2013 (71%). Females comprised 54% of the harvest while males accounted for 46%. Adult females comprised 35% of the fall harvest, juvenile hens 20%, gobblers 31%, jakes 14% and one unknown. The percentage of adult males in the harvest was lower than in 2013 (42% gobblers). Adults are generally believed to be less vulnerable to fall hunting than juveniles, particularly for hens. There are probable prestige biases at work also, where hunters are reluctant to admit to killing a juvenile bird. Hunters could also be confusing jakes and juvenile hens as adult hens, or using hunting methods and selectivity toward adults. These all could be factors affecting adult to juvenile ratios.

Accidents

There was one fall accident during the 2014 hunting season. One hunter mistakenly identified another as a turkey. There have been no accidents in fall turkey hunting for six of the last eight years. Since fall hunting of turkeys began in 1989, there have been one fatal and 27 non-fatal hunting accidents with an average of 1.1 per year.

Table 1. Turkey kill by zone, age and sex, permits issued, and permit success rate for 2014.

Zone	Hens	Juv. Hens	Toms	Jakes	Unks	Total Harvest	Permits Issued	% Success
1	249	219	221	145	0	834	14,465	5.8%
2	450	203	456	161	1	1,271	18,000	7.1%
3	421	231	312	163	0	1,127	15,457	7.3%
4	180	98	165	68	0	511	8,446	6.1%
5	91	28	110	36	0	265	3,800	7.0%
6	37	20	37	13	0	107	1,401	7.6%
7	31	25	26	17	0	99	1,000	9.9%
FM	6	2	4	2	0	14	139	10.1%
UNK						0		
Totals	1,465	826	1,331	605	1	4,228	62,708	6.7%

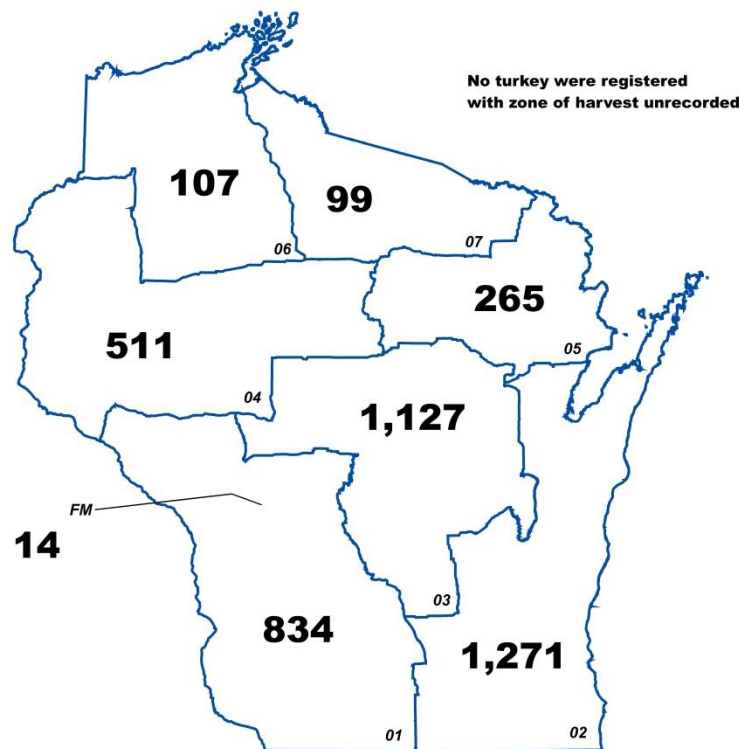


Figure 1. Fall turkey harvest by zone, 2014.

Table 2. *Historical number of permits issued, harvest, and permit success for fall turkey hunting, 1989-2014.*

Year	Permits Issued	Harvest	Permit Success
1989	7,260	1,570	21.6%
1990	12,465	3,433	27.5%
1991	16,668	2,904	17.4%
1992	24,997	5,024	20.1%
1993	31,449	5,625	17.9%
1994	17,889	3,896	21.8%
1995	28,555	6,241	21.9%
1996	30,779	6,305	20.5%
1997	32,569	6,004	18.4%
1998	41,131	8,845	21.5%
1999	55,479	10,825	19.5%
2000	69,566	11,263	16.2%
2001	71,601	11,029	15.4%
2002	75,040	10,860	14.5%
2003	78,831	12,554	15.9%
2004	79,178	10,362	13.1%
2005	85,678	10,650	12.4%
2006	78,782	12,108	15.4%
2007	80,382	12,010	14.9%
2008	76,448	10,698	14.0%
2009	68,796	8,281	12.0%
2010	61,567	7,394	12.0%
2011	54,949	5,433	9.9%
2012	55,099	7,054	12.8%
2013	65,101	4,631	7.1%
2014	62,708	4,228	6.7%

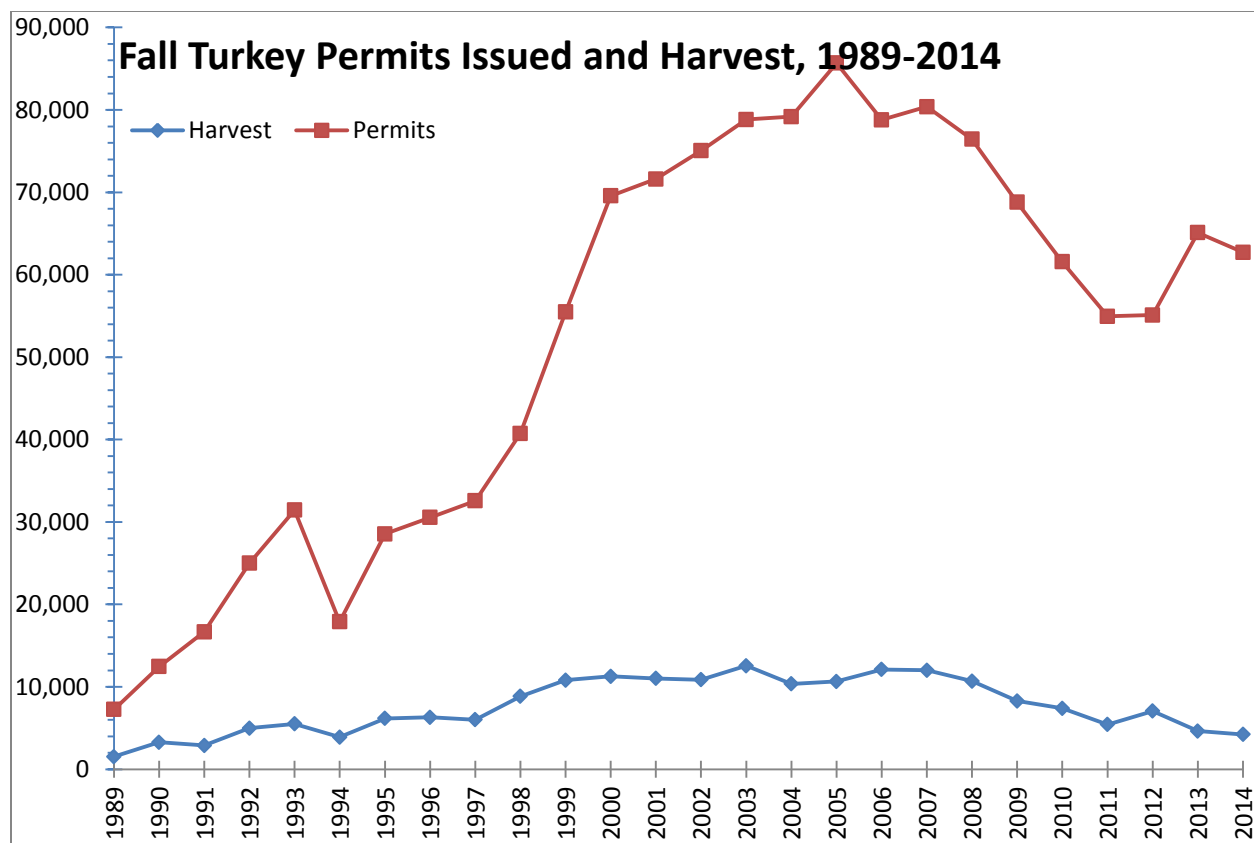


Figure 2. *Fall turkey permits issued, and harvest, 1989-2014.*

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